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Live-Stock Industry in the Philippines

BY MANLY SHARP

Naga, Camarines Sur, Philippine Islands

THE PHILIPPINES—the only Christian nation in the Far East—lie directly east of Indo-China, about 600 miles from Hongkong and 1,200 miles from Shanghai. They have a land area equal to the New England states and New York, or about 120,000 square miles. There are about three thousand islands, which form an archipelago almost as large as that of Japan. Some of these are only coral reefs, uninhabited and unnamed. The two largest islands are Luzon and Mindanao. The other most important islands are Negros, Cebu, Bohol, Leyte, Samar, and Panay. Luzon is thirteenth in size among the islands of the world. It is about the same size as Cuba. Its total length is 490 miles, and its width varies from one to 140 miles. Mindanao is nearly as large. According to the latest census, the islands have a total of 11,000,000 inhabitants. About 6,000 of these are Americans, 4,000 Spanish, 1,000 English, 300 Germans, 200 French, 450 Swiss, 45,000 Chinese, and 6,600 Japanese.

While, since the American occupation, tremendous progress has been made in these islands along the lines of education, transportation, sanitation, agriculture, and general improvement of the lives of the people, much still remains to be done. Agriculture shows as great a need of improvement as anything, since the Philippines are essentially an agricultural nation. In this article I shall endeavor to cover the live-stock industry, mentioning such matters as I think might be of interest to live-stock breeders in the United States.

There is comparatively little live stock in the Philippines. In point of value, the chief animals rank as follows: carabaos or water-buffaloes, hogs, cattle,

horses, goats, and sheep. At the present time there is a total of 9,000,000 of these animals, which is a small amount of live stock for 11,000,000 people.

Although there are comparatively few animals at present, the Philippine Islands are especially well adapted to live-stock raising, because there are millions of acres of waste pasture-land available. All over the islands good ranges may be found. There are large tracts of unoccupied land in Luzon, Mindanao, Samar, Bohol, Masbate, and Panay, as well as in other, smaller islands, which would make excellent pasture for cattle. Mindanao has an enormous amount of unoccupied range, which could be profitably utilized for the production of beef. The quality of grass on these ranges is not the best, because it is coarse, but live stock can and does thrive fairly well on this cogan grass, especially if it is burned over or kept down by grazing. Only a small amount of cereals and legumes is raised, and few supplementary feeds are used. In most places there are numerous streams, which supply plenty of water. Few buildings are required, since the climate is warm. Some trouble is experienced with diseases, such as rinderpest, anthrax, foot-and-mouth disease, cholera, and surra; but less than 2 per cent of the animals die annually because of them. The government has done, and is doing, much to control these diseases through scientific methods and by checking importations.

Carabaos

Although the carabao is a triple-purpose animal, being used for work, meat, and milk, its chief value is its usefulness as a draft-animal. It is the animal best suited for heavy work in the Philippines, being

a low-set, blocky, slow-moving, and powerful beast, which is especially adapted for working in muddy, wet soils, such as rice-fields. It is used extensively for plowing and harrowing rice soils. It will wade very slowly through the mud, pulling a heavy plow or harrow where a horse or mule would flounder and perhaps mire down. This is a great advantage,



PREPARING RICE-BEDS IN THE PHILIPPINES
The carabao cannot be surpassed for this work

since all rice-beds are prepared for planting while the ground is covered with water and mud. It is also used a great deal for transportation purposes. A ton on a two-wheeled cart is only an ordinary load for one carabao. One often sees caravans of twenty-five or thirty carabaos hauling rice, coconuts, abaca, tobacco, or other products to market.

This animal is also employed for dairy purposes, though its use in this respect is not extensive or important. A carabao cow will give about six pounds of milk a day, if properly fed. This is, indeed, a very small amount from one cow, when compared with real dairy cows. However, the milk of the carabao is richer in butterfat, testing about 7.5 per cent and containing about 20 per cent of solids.

While the carabao is raised primarily for draft purposes, it is often used for meat. The meat is coarser than that of the well-known beef breeds, but nevertheless is edible and used for food. Only old and disabled carabaos may be slaughtered. The government prohibits the killing of good work-animals. Approximately 26,000 carabaos were slaughtered in the Philippines in 1920 for food purposes. This was about 1.5 per cent of the total number.

In 1922 there were 1,541,100 carabaos in the Philippines, which were scattered generally over the islands. Their total value was \$133,171,500, or an average of \$86 per head. During previous years very little attention was given to their improvement, but now more emphasis is placed on the judging, breeding, care, and selection of draft carabaos in some of the important agricultural schools of the islands. A score-card with a scale of points for judging carabaos, similar to those used for judging draft-

horses in the agricultural colleges of the United States, is used in the study of animal husbandry. The chief feed of the carabao is grass, but during the working seasons concentrates are also fed. During the dry season one sees hundreds grazing at will over the dry rice-paddies. They are all branded, so that the owner seldom has trouble in separating his animals from the herd.

The Filipino farmer takes great pride in his carabao. Quite often he drives it to a near-by stream and washes it carefully. The carabao immediately lies down in the water, and enjoys the treatment as much or more than horses in the United States enjoy the comb. It is not uncommon, during the heat of the day, to see twenty or more carabaos lying in one large water-hole, with just their heads out, away from the heat and flies, in perfect peace and contentment. The carabaos are always smooth and slick, due to good care and the fact that they are easy keepers. Of the hundreds I have seen, only a very few have been thin or skinny, and those cases were due to sickness.

In the past not enough animals have been produced here to supply the demand; so approximately 12,000 are imported each year from Indo-China. A new law has been passed, which takes effect March 1, 1925, prohibiting the importation of cattle and carabaos into this country, for the purpose of protecting its animals against disease. This will increase the future demand for carabaos and cattle. The development of the agricultural land will also stimulate the demand, since there are at present only about half enough work-animals to farm the total arable land when once it is brought under cultivation.

Cattle

According to statistics of the Bureau of Agriculture, there are a total of 815,800 cattle in the Philippines, generally distributed over the islands in herds of thirty to fifty head, there being very few large herds. There are no distinct dairy or beef breeds, but most of the cattle are used for beef. Not many of these are like the cattle of the United States. The majority are usually thin, small, and cat-hamed, due to neglect and lack of improvement through selection and breeding. Almost all the cattle of the Philippines dress from 200 to 500 pounds—seldom more. With the exception of a few herds and individuals, and the humped Indian strain, they usually do not resemble the beef animals of the United States, but look like Jerseys. At the farms I have visited—and the same is true generally—there are about as many bulls in the herds as cows, because the males are seldom castrated. The best bulls and cows are usually sold for beef, since they bring the best prices. Hence the inferior quality of beef animals at present. They originated from Chinese, Indian, and Spanish cattle.

Few Herefords, Galloways, Angus, Shorthorns, Holsteins, Jerseys, Guernseys, Red Polls, or Ayrshires are found here. The climate is too hot, and these breeds are more susceptible to diseases than the native stock. Quoting from the *Philippine Agricultural Review*:

Various European breeds, such as the Galloway, Angus, Hereford, and Shorthorn, have been imported from time to time by the Bureau of Agriculture, and experimented with both as to their adaptability as pure-breeds and as upgrading factors for crossing with the native stock. Sufficient experimental work has been done fully to demonstrate that these classes as pure-breeds are, in general, not adapted to local conditions. It may possibly develop that some of these breeds after a few generations could be profitably raised in certain districts, such as Mindanao, where the climate is more temperate and the varieties of grasses are considered superior to those of the natural pastures; however, this is at present highly problematical. On the other hand, the grades of most of these breeds obtained from crossing with native stock have proved very promising, being far superior to the common stock in size and conformation.

At the present time little is being done with European or American breeds. Stock-raisers are trying to improve the native stock, rather than importing foreign breeding stock. A very recent paper (Circular 130 of the Bureau of Agriculture) says:

Present indications show that pure-bred cattle from the United States cannot be raised in the Philippines profitably. They do not thrive very well under Philippine conditions, and, indeed, usually die after a short time.

Swine

In point of numbers, hogs lead the list among domestic animals in the Philippines, there being at the present time 5,241,200. The general run of hogs is extremely poor in quality and conformation, though very hardy and prolific. They seldom receive any care, but are usually forced to seek their own food. The native stock resembles the wild hogs in many ways, having long heads and very heavy shoulders. The young pigs are frequently striped, like wild pigs.

The Filipinos are fond of pork, and make pork, rice, and chicken their principal foods. There are no large herds, but nearly every farmer has four or five hogs around. They are often tethered to a post under the house or to a tree in the yard. At nearly every house along the road one sees a hog or two fastened to a post or tree. They are usually tied by means of an improvised harness, or by a rope tied through a hole in the ear.

Most of these native hogs would make the farmers of the United States laugh. The average mature hog weighs 150 pounds or less. Nearly all are so sway-backed that their stomachs almost touch the ground. They are wrinkled, thin, and ugly, which is probably due to the fact that almost all of them are infected with kidney worms or intestinal para-

sites. Americans, outside of Manila and the large towns, seldom eat fresh pork. After one sees these so-called hogs, one no longer has a desire for pork.

Much effort has been put forth by the Bureau of Agriculture to improve the swine, but only a beginning has been made. The introduction of Duroc-Jerseys, Yorkshires, Berkshires, and Poland-Chinas has improved the stock a great deal where they have been tried. These breeds have been used at different breeding-stations with marked success; but it will be years before the hogs of the islands as a class will have quality and type. The *Philippine Agricultural Review* says:

The Bureau of Agriculture has for some years been raising pure-bred Berkshire pigs for disposal to the public for breeding purposes, and the production of stud stock for free public service. The Berkshire has proved a most satisfactory cross with the native swine. The grade offspring possesses the characteristics of the pure-bred to a surprising extent, these characters persisting for a number of generations when crossed back with the native stock.



RESULTS OF CROSSING NATIVE HOGS WITH
BERKSHIRE BOARS

At the Central Luzon Agricultural School marked success has been made by breeding native stock with Berkshires. The Poland-China and Duroc-Jersey also have proved to be well adapted to the Philippines.

[To be concluded in February number]

ENTRIES OF PUBLIC LANDS

PROVISION for the setting-aside of public lands suitable chiefly for grazing, to be leased by the government in such areas as will insure their preservation for pasturage and storage purposes, is among the measures advocated by the Commissioner of the General Land Office in his annual report.

Of 4,564,412 acres of public and Indian lands entered during the fiscal year 1923-24, 2,812,624 acres were granted under the stock-raising act of 1916. Patents were issued for 8,826,039 acres, of which 5,530,781 acres were patented under the homestead laws.

Receipts from sales, leases, and other disposition of public lands totaled \$16,013,915.

Range Studies as an Aid in Live-Stock Production

BY C. L. FORSLING

Director, Great Basin Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah

[Concluded from December number]

Controlling Stock on Range

As already pointed out, much forage may be wasted because of poor distribution of cattle and improper handling of sheep. Careful trials have shown that cattle can be handled to advantage by proper distribution of salt and riding, provided the range is adequately watered. The common practice has been to salt cattle where they are, instead of where they ought to be. Cattle have a natural appetite for salt, and usually will go to the salt wherever it is placed. By distributing it in small quantities on slopes, ridge-tops, and in areas of less palatable forage, the cattle, in seeking the salt, will consume considerable of the forage around it, and thereby relieve the congestion around the usual congregating places. Well-devised salting plans, together with riding to control excessive drift, are one of the best known methods of obtaining the desired distribution of cattle and utilization of the range.

The open and "bedding-out" systems of herding sheep, first tried out in actual practice and later demonstrated by careful tests, have resulted in less waste of forage and greater gains by the sheep. Under these systems, the sheep are allowed to graze quietly in open formations, with practically no use of dogs, and to bed where night overtakes them. Where this system has been followed systematically, it has been found that approximately 15 per cent less range was required, and lambs made an additional gain of one to five pounds, as compared with former methods. Probably 50 per cent of the sheep on national-forest range are handled under this system at the present time.

Increasing Calf Crop

An average of twenty-two more calves has been obtained at the Jornada Range Experiment Station in southern New Mexico for the past eight years, as compared with that obtained from herds in the surrounding territory. This increase has been the result principally of more conservative stocking, more care, feeding of the cows to insure a thrifty breeding condition, better distribution of bulls during the breeding season, and better care of bulls, as compared with the general practice in the region. Probably not more than ten of these additional calves were required to pay the added cost, leaving a net profit of twelve more calves.

Eradication of Poisonous Plants

Some tests made a number of years ago demonstrated that tall larkspur—one of the most common plants poisonous to cattle—could be eradicated from the range in a practical manner by grubbing. Since that time this plant has been removed from over 7,000 acres of badly infested national-forest range, at an average cost of \$5.34 per acre. This work has resulted in the saving of approximately 1,000 head of cattle annually. Water hemlock and whorled milkweed also have been effectively eradicated by grubbing.

Many Problems Still Unsolved

The problems of range management that have been discussed here are only a portion of those which exist. There are many others—less conspicuous perhaps, but nevertheless of great importance. While some of them have been given considerable study, by no means all of them have been worked out. There may be better systems of grazing for improving and maintaining the range than have yet been devised. Plants that will prove successful for artificial reseeding may be found or developed. Far more information is needed with regard to the most efficient utilization of range forage. Satisfactory methods of eradicating some of the poisonous plants, such as loco, have yet to be discovered, and perhaps there are more economical methods of destroying other toxic plants than by grubbing. Very little is known of just what is the best practice to meet emergency drought situations successfully. Still others might be mentioned. There is yet a big gap to be filled before the range live-stock producer will be receiving all the help that he needs from the research worker. This is true, not only in regard to range management, but in the case of other phases of range live-stock production as well.

INJUNCTION AT KANSAS CITY

ACCORDING TO the *Kansas City Daily Drovers' Telegram*, a temporary injunction was issued on December 11 by the federal court at that city, preventing the Packers and Stock-Yards Administration from compelling the Live Stock Exchange to extend its hog-docking facilities to non-members. The court, as stated in the *Drovers' Telegram*, held that the exchange had developed and financed the facility of hog-docking for the protection of its own shippers, that "title to the facility rests with the creators of it," and that no branch of the government has any right to confer its benefits on anyone.

As we understand it, the Producers' Commission Association does not regard itself as involved in this decision, and was not represented in court.

NATIONAL-FOREST GRAZING FEES

THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS on the report of C. E. Rachford announcing the result of the reappraisal work carried on by the Forest Service during the past four years as a basis for readjusting the grazing fees on national forests have been submitted to Forester W. B. Greeley:

DENVER, COLO., December 16, 1924.

W. B. Greeley, Forester,
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. GREELEY:

I have your favor of November 29, inclosing a copy of the range-appraisal report of C. E. Rachford, dated November 5, 1924, which submits a new basis of maximum and minimum grazing fees on the different forests. You state that you "desire to take action at an early date on the tentative schedule of fees developed by field officers," and submit your recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture; that you will appreciate it if I will go over this report carefully and let you have the benefit of my comments or criticisms by January 1; and that Secretary Gore will plan to take final action upon your recommendations on or about January 15, 1925.

I thank you for this opportunity to examine and comment on the report, although the time allowed is surprisingly short in view of the importance of the subject. The annual convention of the American National Live Stock Association will be held at Albuquerque, N. M., January 14-16, 1925, when the report could be carefully considered by our National Forests Advisory Board and by our association. I therefore hope it may be consistent for you to defer your decision until after our convention. Obviously, within the time limit which you have set, and with only one copy of the report and exhibits, I could not present the question to all the members of our board and get a reply to you by January 1.

Pending action by our association, I am glad to submit my comments.

The history of grazing fees on national forests, the various advances made, and the reasons therefor, as disclosed in the Rachford report and from data in my office, appear to be substantially as follows:

National forests, established under the act of 1891, were administered by the Interior Department, without any grazing fees, up to the time of their transfer to the Department of Agriculture in 1905. After that transfer regulations were adopted, and, commencing January 1, 1906, a fee for grazing was charged, which, as represented, was intended to cover the cost of administration of grazing on the forests.

Increases in Grazing Fees

In 1910 a slight increase was made in the grazing fees on certain forests.

Effective January 1, 1912, a small increase was made on all forests.

In 1915 a substantial increase was made, which placed the fees from 50 to 75 per cent higher than the cost-of-administration basis of 1906.

In 1916, according to the Rachford report, another increase was made by advancing the maximum grazing fee.

Advances of 1917 and 1919

On November 3, 1916, Hon. D. F. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture, wrote me, as secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, to the effect that for two years the Forester had been considering an advance in grazing fees to a basis which would represent "the real market value of the

pasturage." He stated that "a study was made by the Forester of some 900 cases involving lands in the vicinity of the national forests," and that "on the private lands it was found that the average rate per month was 3.6 cents per head of sheep and 11.7 cents per head of cattle." He explained that, on account of certain restrictions on national forests, stockmen are "naturally willing to pay higher prices for private lands," but that "it would appear that the real value of the grazing privilege upon the national forests is about twice the rates charged at present." It was then proposed to distribute a 100 per cent advance over a period of three years, commencing March 1, 1917.

Stockmen vigorously opposed this advance, and in his letter of February 1, 1917, Secretary Houston modified the plan submitted in November, 1916, as follows:

"Instead of an increase of 33 1/4 per cent for the first year, an increase of 25 per cent will be made on all forests at this time, to apply on permits issued for grazing periods beginning on or after March 1, 1917. Further increases will be deferred until a *specific study* of the existing conditions upon each of the national forests has been made. Upon the basis of the facts thus obtained, after having considered all of the advantages and disadvantages of the locality, additional increases will be made when the real value of the forage upon any forest is found to be more than the amount charged, but no such additional increase will be made effective before March 1, 1918."

No advance was made in 1918, but on November 25, 1918, Secretary Houston wrote me a letter, from which I quote as follows:

"Careful consideration has been given to the question of the rates which will be charged for grazing upon the national forests during the coming season, *including further information which has been gained regarding the relative values of grazing in different localities*. . . . In accordance with the conclusion announced by me on February 1, 1917, that the charge for grazing should be based upon *the real value of the forage*, I have decided that, beginning March 1, 1919, the charge for grazing upon the national forests during the year-long period will be . . ."

Then follow the grazing rates, which, in effect, made the 100 per cent increase.

In your annual report for the fiscal year 1920 you refer to the 1919 advance in the following language:

"*Grazing Fees*.—On February 1, 1917, the Secretary of Agriculture announced that grazing fees would be based upon the real value of the forage utilized. Valuation studies in the western range districts were undertaken, and on March 1, 1919, the grazing fees formerly in effect were approximately doubled. The fees then established by the Secretary of Agriculture, which greatly increased the receipts from the national forests, represented the best judgment of the department as to the actual value of the ranges under market conditions prior to that time, taking into account the restrictions placed upon their use by Forest Service regulations."

Present Reappraisal

On April 16, 1920, you were appointed Forester; on November 3 of the same year you submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture a plan for the reform of grazing fees; on November 6 the secretary approved your plan, and another study of grazing fees was then inaugurated. The Rachford report, which you inclose, is the result.

The basis of maximum and minimum grazing fees on the different forests, as shown in the Rachford report, admits of the following composite comparison with the grazing fees in effect for 1924:

Average increase in six districts:

Cattle—Maximum,	127.9 per cent
Minimum,	45.3 per cent
Sheep—Maximum,	155.8 per cent
Minimum,	73.7 per cent

Eliminating the forests in Arizona and New Mexico (District 3), where no substantial increase is contemplated, the comparison is:

Cattle—Maximum,	133.7 per cent
Minimum,	56.9 per cent
Sheep—Maximum,	167.2 per cent
Minimum,	85.1 per cent

This new basis would increase grazing fees an average of more than 100 per cent.

The report sets out the "basic private land fee in cents per head per month" in various districts, and a composite average of all districts—except District 3 (New Mexico and Arizona), where an error is manifest in the figures—is:

On cattle, 24.2 cents; on sheep, 7.13 cents.

In Secretary Houston's letters, already referred to, the study made during the two years previous to November, 1916, confirmed by the further study conducted up to November 25, 1918, represented the grazing value of private land per month to be: for cattle, 11.7 cents; for sheep, 3.6 cents. In other words, the report indicates that the rental of private lands is practically 100 per cent higher than was found by the examination of the Forest Service during the years 1914-1918.

Elsewhere in the report (page 49) it is stated that "the basic fee of private lands is about 18 cents for cattle and 6.5 cents per head for sheep per month." An average of the rates submitted to you for approval exceeds these basic figures for private land.

Value of Cattle Ranches Has Depreciated

I have thus set out the foregoing brief history of grazing fees on national forests, and a condensed reference to the findings in the Rachford report, in order to make clear some of my comments on the present reappraisal scheme.

At the outset I wish to state as a fact that cattle ranches—whether privately owned, with all the live stock running on such privately owned land, or ranches which use for pasturage either national forests, public domain, or leased land—cannot be sold today for as much money as in 1914-1918, when the former study of values was made; nor can they be sold now to so good an advantage as previous to the war. There is practically no sale for ranch property in the West except at a ruinous discount.

If, as found by Mr. Rachford, privately owned pastures leased by stockmen for grazing purposes have a value 100 per cent higher than was stated by your department to be the real value in 1914-1918, I think a good share, if not all, of that increase can be accounted for by the advance in grazing fees imposed in 1917 and 1919. A careful reading of the report does not indicate that any consideration was given to the influence of such increase on the rental value of private lands leased for pasturage purposes, and adversely on the value of privately owned and operated cattle ranches. It seems to have automatically increased the value of leased land and depreciated the value of ranch property.

As stated in the resolution adopted at our annual convention held in Omaha in January, 1924:

"Since the original policy of basing fees on the cost of administration was departed from, a process of confiscation of property values has been steadily going on, which now seems about to be carried to completion."

The present deplorable financial condition of western cattlemen abundantly confirms that statement.

You recognized the correlation of all grazing lands when you stated in your annual report for the fiscal year 1922:

"Agricultural lands, the public domain, and the national-forest ranges are so interrelated that grazing administration of the latter must of necessity take into account the conditions created by the presence of lands of the other two classes."

The Rachford report mentions some of the factors affecting the value to the stockman of national-forest grazing—such

as summer and winter grazing, ranch property investments, labor, feed, etc.—but discards as impracticable any method of determining grazing fees which would be based either on what the stockman could afford to pay or on the invested value in ranch property.

I hope, before you submit your recommendations to Secretary Gore, that you will definitely ascertain the present sale value of representative cattle ranches adjacent to national forests; whether there is any market for them; the number of forced sales and foreclosures; and the net returns from such sales or foreclosures, compared with the value of these ranches in previous years. I trust, when this information is secured, that you will incorporate it in your report to the secretary. It would have been a comparatively easy matter to have obtained this information at the time of the appraisal work, and I think it should have been incorporated in the report. It will, I am sure, support my assertion that, while the grazing fees on national forests have been advanced, the actual value of cattle ranches in the West, dependent upon outside grazing, has proportionately decreased.

Rental Value of Private Land

Under this heading the report discusses the method pursued in obtaining leased tracts, for comparison with national-forest land. No reference is made to the unappropriated, unreserved public domain of 185,000,000 acres which is used solely for grazing, and without any fee. The presence of large tracts of public domain throughout the West has a potential influence on the grazing value of private land. It might easily account for one-half of the alleged value of leased private land. Yet no consideration is given to this important factor in the report—it is not even mentioned. The leasing of railroad checker-board land in effect carries with it the use of the intervening sections belonging to the government, so that by leasing a certain acreage of such land stockmen would secure a double amount of grazing. As to how far that might affect the rental value of private leased land the report is strangely silent.

The report states (page 9) that forage on national forests "is used by approximately 25 per cent of the stockmen of the West; the other 75 per cent have to own land sufficient to carry their stock, or lease from owners in the open market." As the open range is grazed, probably a considerable share of those 75 per cent use it, and no doubt also on that account they are able to pay a high rental for some strategically located private land.

The "Favored Few"

Throughout the report the argument is stressed that, unless grazing fees on national forests are put on the kind of commercial basis found by your employees to be fair and reasonable, the benefits of national-forest grazing would go to a "favored few," and that every other citizen of this republic would be shorn of his equal benefit. However, on page 53 of the report it is made plain that national-forest grazing is open to all who can qualify under your rules and regulations, without any discrimination, unless it be against those who ought to, but do not, have any superior rights by reason of their pioneering.

With equal logic it might be argued that those stockmen who are so situated that they can use the grazing on what is left of the open range are a "favored few," and that everybody else is discriminated against. Anybody who desires to use the open range can do so. This "favored few" excuse is a figment of the imagination. I have never heard a stockman express regret that he could not utilize some of the remaining public domain. Right now I do not believe any stockman envies the "favored few" on the national forests.

Many of the stockmen who settled the West and invested their money in ranches did so because they thought they could

thus utilize, at a minimum of expense, that government land which never would be taken up under any of the land laws, and which was suitable only for grazing—and much of it very inferior grazing, as that term is understood in the East. They utilized, without any fee, the grazing on the land now known as national forests. This grazing land consists mostly of rough and rocky mountain-sides. It has no greater economic use than grazing. The altitude is high, and in the North the season is short. Stockmen must provide winter pasture and feed, in addition to forest-reserve summer grazing. Their ranch-holdings and investments were entirely predicated upon these conditions, and now to commercialize the grazing upon the national forests destroys the value of ranch property.

What Is the Interest of the Public?

The report contends that, as the national forests were created for the benefit of all the people, the fair interest of the public requires that grazing fees should be commercialized. I think not. I believe the people generally are more concerned in an adequate supply of meat foods, at a reasonable price, than they are in the possibility of securing two to three million dollars' additional revenue from grazing on national forests. The Corn Belt feeder is more interested in securing cheap feeders from the West than in having the government collect an additional two cents annually as his share in the proposed increase. If, as I firmly believe, the projected increase in grazing fees will result in a proportionate advance on railroad grant land, state land, other land grants, and private leased land, the consuming public will ultimately pay many times the amount of money involved in the proposed advance of grazing fees on national forests.

The report anticipates the probability that, if grazing fees on national forests are increased, a similar advance will be made on private lands, as was apparently the case following the 1919 advance. It says: "If the government increases the rates, and the stockmen permit and accept an increase on private lands, that is their own responsibility and not the government's;" and it suggests that stockmen organize and "preclude the possibilities of extortion."

At this time, when other arms of the government are endeavoring to aid the agricultural and live-stock industries, it does appear to me that the Forest Service should hesitate to encourage an inflation in the overhead costs of raising live stock.

It is well to bear in mind the real position which the government occupies in the administration of approximately 110,000,000 acres of grazing on the national forests. In any other hands it would be called a monopoly. Stockmen who have all their worldly possessions tied up in a ranch property, and who are dependent on national-forest grazing for part of the year at least, are compelled to pay whatever fees the government may fix, without any voice in what they are, or abandon or sell their ranches, if the latter is possible.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924, the receipts for grazing on the national forests showed a decrease of \$425,924.36, and the following comment on this decrease, appearing in your annual report, is illuminating:

"The reduction in the revenues from the national-forest stock ranges was due in part to delinquencies and delays in the payment of grazing fees, arising from the depression under which the live-stock industry is still suffering in many portions of the West. The delinquencies for the past four years aggregate \$126,476.95, 90 per cent of which is not collectible because the grazing privileges have been abandoned, and in many cases the ranches and live stock have passed out of the hands of the permittees."

Forest Service Restrictions

The Forest Service has always recognized that, by reason of certain restrictions, the value of its grazing was less than of that on privately fenced areas. This is a fact hardly open

to dispute. However—for the first time, to my knowledge—a representative of your Service argues that these restrictions are not to the disadvantage of stockmen. I note this remarkable sentence in Mr. Rachford's report:

"The restrictions imposed by private landowners on lessees are often equal to, and in some cases far in excess of, those imposed by the Forest Service."

I am sure stockmen will not agree with that statement; nor do I believe you will accept it as a fact.

The report of Mr. Rachford does not bear the stamp of impartiality. It reads like the brief of a special pleader who undertook the task of justifying another 100 per cent increase in grazing fees. The Forest Service, not Congress, established the principle of commercializing the forage on the national forests.

* * *

I believe it is for the best interests of our nation that grazing fees on national forests should be established on the lowest possible basis consistent with the expense of administering such grazing—practically on the cost-of-administration basis. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924, the cost of administration represented approximately 30 per cent of the receipts from grazing. Such a basis would not, in my judgment, involve any discrimination or undue preference.

I fully understand, both from your letter and from the statement made by you at our Omaha convention in 1924, that it is not your intention to enforce such increase in grazing fees as may be approved by the Secretary of Agriculture until, as you say, "there is a substantial improvement in the business conditions affecting the live-stock industry." I submit that this makes for an almost intolerable situation. Just as soon as stockmen get in a position to pay their present arrears in grazing fees, a bureau of the government, at its option, is prepared to impose a further burden.

I note that you intimate in your letter the possibility "that this whole subject may be considered by Congress." In the Rachford report reference is made to the attitude of certain members of Congress. It seems to me that the time has now arrived when Congress, which created these national forests, should definitely announce a policy as to the administration of grazing thereon. Then the stockmen utilizing the grass, and your department as well, will know where they stand.

Yours very sincerely,

T. W. TOMLINSON,

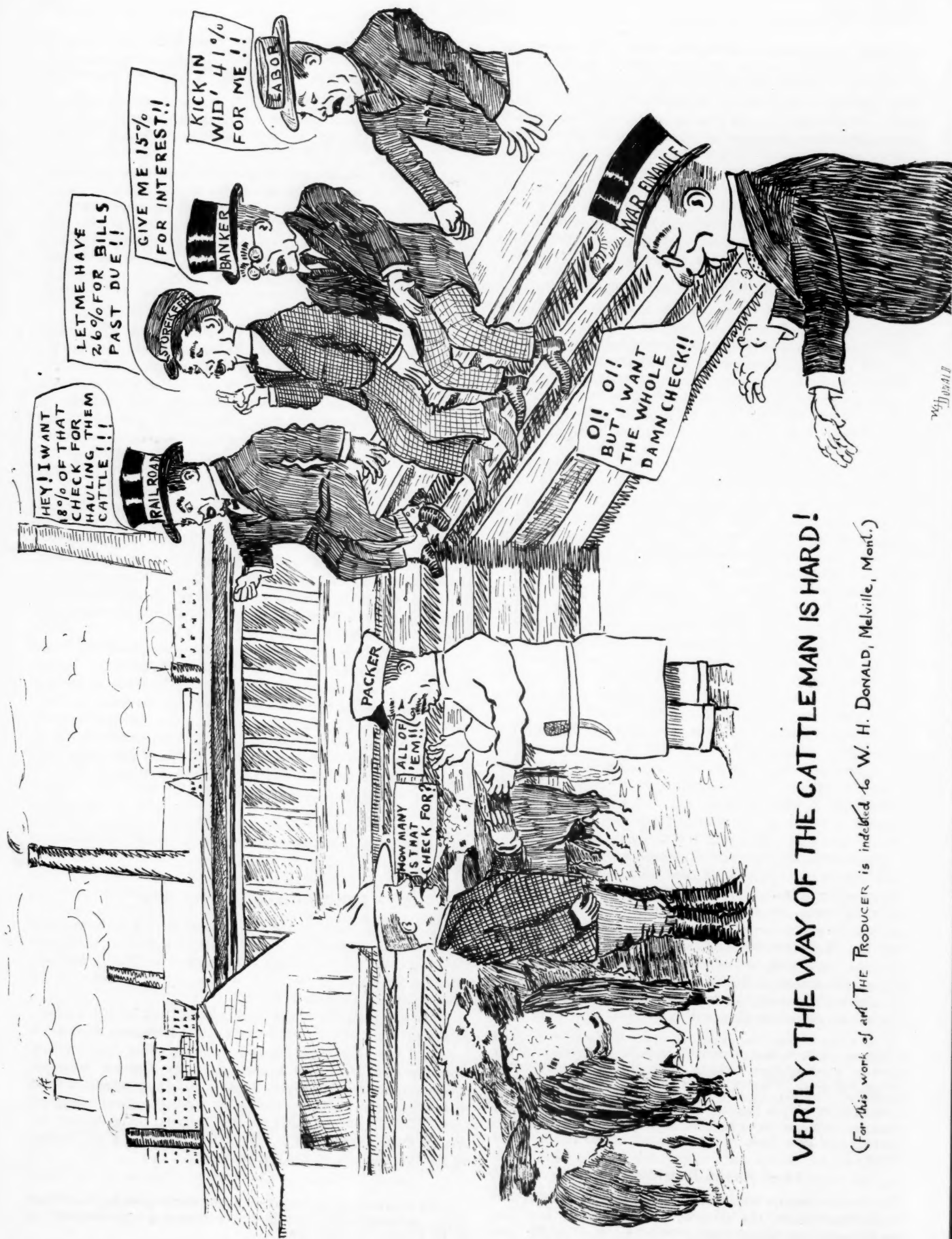
Secretary, American National Live Stock Association.

FINAL COTTON FIGURES

FINAL FIGURES of the Department of Agriculture place the cotton crop of the United States for 1924 at 13,153,000 bales, against the 10,139,000 bales picked in 1923. Average price on December 1 was 22.6 cents a pound, compared with 31 cents on the same date in 1923.

The last estimate of the corn crop is 2,436,513,000 bushels, as against the 2,478,000,000 bushels of the November forecast—a loss of over 41,000,000 bushels. On the other hand, spring wheat gained 16,636,000 bushels over the October estimate, making, with the 590,037,000 bushels of winter wheat, a total wheat crop for 1924 of 872,673,000 bushels. Oats advanced from 1,509,000,000 to 1,541,900,000 bushels, while barley decreased from 201,000,000 to 187,875,000 bushels. Final figures on the rye crop are 63,446,000 bushels.

"We have been getting THE PRODUCER regularly, and think it is a publication that would do credit to any organization."—O. H. FINCH, Dalhart, Tex.



VERILY, THE WAY OF THE CATTLEMAN IS HARD!

(For this work of art THE PRODUCER is indebted to W. H. DONALD, Melville, Mont.)

DEVELOPMENT OF DENVER LIVE-STOCK MARKET

BY L. M. PEXTON

Traffic Manager, Denver Union Stock Yard Company

A COMPARISON of the receipts at the Denver market for 1923 and 1913 shows an increase for the former year of 200 per cent in sheep, 25 per cent in cattle, and 100 per cent in hogs. Arrivals in 1924 denote a healthy advance over those of 1923, and indications are that Denver will be the only central market showing such increases in all departments. The figures are as follows:

Year	Sheep	Cattle	Hogs	Horses
1923.....	1,856,578	619,882	495,292	21,008
1913.....	620,431	499,208	246,598	16,274
Increase.....	1,236,147	120,674	248,694	4,734
1924 (estimated).....	2,050,000	630,000	550,000	35,000

This increase in receipts can be due to no other reason than that shippers all through the West have found it profitable to market their products at Denver, and to the upbuilding of the yards and facilities to give live stock prompt and efficient handling. Cattle increases for the ten-year period do not reflect the actual condition, due to the large movement of southern cattle to northwestern ranges through Denver ten years ago, and the comparative absence of this movement at the present time.

Facilities at Denver

The Denver yards are completely paved, sanitary sewers drain every nook and corner, and pure mountain water from Cheesman Dam, forty-five miles away, is piped directly to each pen. Shippers comment on the fact that this, together with the high-class hay which they are accustomed to receive at Denver, gives their stock fills and appearance never before thought possible. The general short hauls to Denver, in comparison with other markets, tend to help the sale and net returns, as the stock is fresh instead of fagged, and would rather eat than lie down and rest.

Another item often noted by shippers familiar with other markets is the lay-out of the unloading docks, scales, and other equipment which eliminates long drives after the stock is filled and sold. The yards, when rebuilt a few years ago, were planned for a minimum of handling, all of which reacts to the benefit of the producer.

Denver is the home of the largest concrete sheep-barn in the world. This barn covers four acres and is double-decked, thus furnishing eight acres of covered feeding- and sale-pens.

National Western Stock Show

The National Western Stock Show, held at Denver each year in January, through years of effort has been built up until today it ranks among the leaders. The benefits to the range country through the development of this show are incalculable. Direct results are the upbuilding of the quality of western cattle, with consequential higher prices for distinctive stock at the same cost of production. It is often noted that there is always a demand for choice stock of any species. The dates for the 1925 show are January 17 to 24. Entries at the present time indicate that the show will be one of the largest in history.

Extensive Advertising of Western Live Stock

Another item now occupying the interest of Denver people is the "trade-marking" of mountain-bred and raised live stock. It is the intention to make such stock nationally known among feeders, both in name and in value. Considerable money has

been spent on this in the past, and it is anticipated that efforts will be doubled in the future.

The effect of this will be to create a desire among all feeders to purchase this class of animals, and to establish prices higher than those paid for stock produced in localities not so favored with high altitudes, clean air, pure water, and other items which make for health, vigor, vitality, and good feeding features. It will give western producers a point to market their products close to home, with low freight rates, shrink, feed-bills, and other expense, and will realize for them more net money than if shipped elsewhere.

Future Prospects

Each year the Denver market gains in receipts, with a corresponding larger percentage of sales. It is now the largest feeder-sheep market in the world, is third in total sheep receipts, is fourth in feeder-cattle shipments, and ranks with the leading markets of the continent in other departments. During 1924 it was the leading horse market of the United States. The yards expect to keep pace with this development, and are now considering enlargement during 1925.

"LIVE STOCK YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW"

BROADCASTING from Westinghouse Station KYW at Chicago, on December 3, D. A. Millett, of Denver, chairman of the National Live Stock and Meat Board and of the Finance Committee of the American National Live Stock Association, under the above title sent out a radio talk as one of the series put on under the auspices of the board every Wednesday evening. Mr. Millett sketched, as the first stage in the live-stock drama, the development of the cattle industry in the West, taking as his starting-point the Lewis and Clarke expedition in 1804, and continuing down through the period of the last century and the first years of this, until the beginning of the World War that was to revolutionize economic conditions everywhere. With the outbreak of the war, the meat appetite of the world became enormous, and the American producer responded nobly to the demand for more, and ever more, sending our exports up by leaps and bounds. Then, we hear—

"It is the year 1919. The conflict is over, but, stimulated by this unprecedented demand, the live-stock producer and his allies, the financiers, have lost their bearings. With falling exports and decreased home demand, due to slackening in industry, the crash comes, and in its wake is left a vast multitude of live-stock men who have devoted their entire lives to the industry and to its improvement—financial wrecks. The bankers of the East organized what was known as the \$50,000,000 pool to help stem the tide of liquidation. The War Finance Corporation had its life and its power extended, so that it might lend a helping hand, not only in live stock, but in all other agricultural pursuits. While these efforts have probably broken the fall somewhat, the fiddler must be paid, and the day of readjustment is now upon us, with a vast scaling-down in the values of agricultural and grazing lands and of live stock. It will probably mean a decrease in the number of cattle and a falling-off for a few years in their quality, due to the fact that the owners have not been financially able to provide themselves with proper sires.

"In sheep the situation is a little different, because in the days of the great export business during the war, while there was some increased demand, it was infinitesimal compared with that in the case of cattle and hogs. Our sheep population since 1900 has decreased 25 per cent, and, since we now produce only about half the wool we consume, sheep will probably increase, and in some degree replace cattle.

"And so, upon these men—many of them descendants of those who made the history of live stock on the great plains of yesterday, many of them discouraged, bankrupt beyond hope, but with the daylight just breaking upon them of a more stable and fundamentally sound condition when the readjustment is completed—the curtain falls on the second scene. May we lift

it for a moment upon a vision of the live-stock industry of tomorrow?

"The fenced pastures—reinforced with hay ranches for winter feeding or as a protection against drought, or by financial ability to procure that great conditioner, cottonseed cake—are here to stay. The great pastures on the Indian reservations, some of them embodying as much as half a million acres, will be broken up, as will the large individual land-holdings. Moving cattle from the South to the North will largely go by. Then will come, both north and south, the small breeding plant, or steer-developing plant, or lamb- and wool-production plant, where the owner lives with his property, remembering again the English adage: 'The eye of the master fattens the cattle.' There will be bred the highly efficient types that produce the largest amount of desirable cuts and wool, rather than numbers. The oncoming tide of dairy production, with its by-product of beef which can fill the cheaper demand, will eliminate him who fails to reach a high standard. The human factor will also continue to change; for, in the future, the production of the right kind of live stock to meet the market demand, and the marketing of it to the best advantage, will of necessity have to be, even more than it is today, in the hands of men who are highly trained and are specialists.

"And so tomorrow holds hope; but it behooves all of us to realize that at the base of all our national prosperity, if it is to be real, must lie a prosperous agricultural and live-stock industry.

"And last, but not least, out of this industry will come young men and women inheriting from those ancestors of yesterday and today the spirit of great adventure, which, of necessity, is a part of live-stock production, and by reason of which they will be able to contribute much to our national life and welfare."

RANGE CATTLE PROSPECTS

BY JAMES E. POOLE

FORECASTING favorable range-cattle production and marketing conditions is a discouraging and discrediting avocation. The genesis of optimism is more frequently desire than logic. The cycle theory is well enough as a theory, but so many fortuitous circumstances obtrude, and it has such an uncanny habit of irregularity, that it is worthless for "doping" purposes. Warren and Pearson, of Cornell University, have been charting the future course of western cattle trade lately. What they have to say on the subject is interesting, but for practical purposes is probably about as reliable as the eccentric performance of a selling plater. Delving into trade history, they have discovered that cattle prices were low, compared with other commodities, in 1880, but were high in 1885. By 1891 another low spot was uncovered. In 1899 prices were high, and again in 1906 low. Another high spot was reached in 1915, the European war establishing a new set of records; only to be followed by the post-war slump, culminating in the disastrously low markets of 1923 and 1924. From this series of performances they assume that the average period between price peak and trough is six to nine years, averaging about eight. By 1928 they figure that cattle prices should reach average relationships; that the business should be more profitable than the average from 1928 to 1936, another peak being in sight about 1932. From 1928 onward they foresee expansion of the industry, precipitating conditions similar to the present some ten or twelve years hence.

If the cycle theory was worth a continental cuss, it might be worth while pasting this in your hat for reference purposes; but it is not, regardless of Cornell University research. If past performance meant anything, picking winning race-horses would be simple enough to put bookmakers to the "cleaners."

Physical conditions, both in the pastoral and in the corn-growing areas, together with industrial conditions, have much to do with making range-cattle prices. But for the partial failure of the 1924 corn crop, stock cattle would probably have sold \$1 per cwt. higher, and a normal movement would have been possible; as it happened, the shambles were congested with

western cattle in feeder flesh that were minus a country outlet. For two seasons past range cattle have labored under an additional handicap in the shape of a continuous heavy supply of well-conditioned cattle from Corn Belt feed-lots. As the purchasing power of the industrial masses was high, this product got preference. In fact, the outlet for grass beef was seriously restricted, as it could be moved only at low prices, especially in the case of cow and heifer product. Between grass and corn-fed cattle of the same weight there has been a spread of several dollars per cwt., which was reflected in wholesale, if not in retail, beef prices. Given a good corn crop next fall, demand for western stock cattle should resume normalcy, and it is a certainty that the excessive crop of corn-fed cattle marketed from September to December in 1923 and 1924 cannot be repeated. If, as is generally assumed, receipts of western cattle show perceptible diminution during the 1925 gathering season, the strategic position of producers should be materially strengthened. The fact has been definitely determined that, from an immediate consumption standpoint at least, grass beef cannot successfully compete with the corn-fed article, regardless of whether it comes from Montana, Colorado, Texas, Wisconsin, or Virginia. Probably Wisconsin graziers were penalized most severely during the 1924 grazing season, as their cattle were put in high last spring, and no supply source sends better grass beef than the Mineral Point pasture area. Increased cost of processing and storage has also militated against grass beef, as producers have been forced to stand the added overhead. With lighter production of corned cattle during the latter half of 1925, fat grassers should have an inning, as the public will utilize grass product if the superior corn-fed article is not available. Midsummer of 1924 found the entire corn-feeding area overloaded with fat cattle that had been carried along in the futile hope of nursing a congested, invalid market, and not until December was liquidation completed. In competition with this enormous crop of superb product, inferior grass beef had no chance; and, unfortunately, condition of western beef was below standard, in consequence of unfavorable physical conditions. If the industrial situation continues healthy—and all the legible handwriting on the wall warrants that expectancy—grazing conditions are favorable, and the corn-crop prospects good, western cattle should get a far different reception at the market next fall.

Predicating cattle-trade forecasts on history may sound logical, but those resorting to it will require a stock of alibis when fulfillment time comes around. Tradition is ripe for the discard. The western cattleman of the next decade will heed the teachings of experience, rather than venerate theory.

CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING OCCUPIES ATTENTION OF CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION of the California Cattlemen's Association, held in San Francisco on December 12-13, 1924, was attended by more than three hundred cattlemen from all parts of the state. Compared with last year's meeting, when the new program for regulated marketing was launched, the occasion was a relatively quiet one, discussion being largely confined to a review and ratification of the work accomplished during the past twelve months. Encouraging progress toward the realization of the plan was reported. Contracts, it was announced, had been signed representing nearly 80 per cent of the cattle of the state—enough to put the plan into operation.

Much of the time of the convention was devoted to committee meetings, and to a thorough discussion of all the problems confronting the live-stock industry. The following resolutions were adopted:

Urging an import duty on hides and animal fats;
 Asking railroads for extension of time until January 31, 1925, for moving cattle on starvation freight rates;
 Recommending appointment of fact-finding commission to study public-range problem, and requesting that any increase in grazing fees be deferred until committee has reported;
 Opposing any change in California's hide and brand law;
 Favoring preferential grazing privileges to stockmen developing water facilities on new areas;
 Advocating keeping Kings River area open for grazing and power development;
 Asking government authorities to postpone action on removal of necessary fences from public domain;
 Requesting government to use American-produced meats exclusively in army and navy;
 Commending governor, and federal and state authorities, for measures taken in control of foot-and-mouth disease;
 Favoring bill giving State Department of Agriculture authority to destroy, and contract for payment for, animals infected with highly contagious diseases, and bill to make uniform county quarantine laws.

Hubbard Russell, of Los Angeles, was re-elected president and managing director for the year 1925, and R. M. Hagen, of San Francisco, secretary. Action was taken by the board of directors to have the presidents of county and local associations compose an advisory council.

COLORADO STOCK GROWERS IN CONVENTION

REQUESTS for a reduction in freight rates on live stock, a substantial tariff on hides, leather and leather goods, as well as frozen and canned meats, and the placing of the public domain, with the exception of national parks, under the Department of Agriculture, were the response of the fifty-first annual convention of the Colorado Stock Growers' Association, held in Denver on December 19 and 20, 1924, to the invitation of Robert D. Carey, former governor of Wyoming and chairman of President Coolidge's Agricultural Conference, to submit recommendations to the latter body. It was decided to hold a conference in Denver on January 23 to attempt the formulation of a system of orderly marketing, and a broad program was adopted for activities looking to the improvement of conditions in the live-stock industry. Following is a summary of the contents of the resolutions, which were all passed unanimously:

Recommending reasonable federal appropriation for continuing plans of Remount Service for improving type of riding-horses produced in state;
 Indorsing recommendation of Public Land Committee for conference to suggest program for orderly marketing of live stock during coming year;
 Urging upon members of General Assembly necessity of providing appropriation for continuing work of eradication of tuberculosis from cattle herds of state;
 Petitioning legislature to appoint committee of stockmen to study problem of range and propose suitable legislation for regulation of grazing thereon;
 Advocating use of better sires;
 Asking state officials to exercise most rigid economy as a means of lowering taxes;
 Requesting carriers to adjust rates on pure-bred live stock on fair and reasonable basis;
 Favoring tariff rates giving same protection to products of farm and ranch as to those of factory;
 Indorsing work and policies of American National Live Stock Association, and urging all members to subscribe for THE PRODUCER;
 Expressing faith in cattle industry as an investment today, and deploring negligence shown this industry by financial interests;
 Appreciating satisfactory service rendered by railroads operating in Colorado during past year;
 Supporting scheme of destroying predatory animals and noxious rodents by poisoned baits, with co-operation between federal and state agencies;
 Recommending abolition of State Tax Commission;
 Protesting against fences put up by homesteaders, which

obstruct old-established roads leading into national forests, and pledging aid in fighting such cases in court;

Thanking commission firms at Denver and Missouri River markets for co-operation in collecting 25-cents-per-car assessment.

All the officers were re-elected for the ensuing year: Harry J. Capps, of Walsenburg, president; Richard Dillon, of Sedalia, vice-president; B. F. Davis, of Denver, secretary-treasurer. It was voted to hold a midsummer meeting at Gunnison about July 15.

NEVADA ASSOCIATION DISCUSSES TAXES

DECEMBER 19-20, 1924, the Nevada Land and Live Stock Association convened in annual session at Elko. A prominent feature of the program was the description of the progress made in the neighboring state of California toward making effective their plan for co-operative marketing, and it was voted to study the plan thoroughly and give it all feasible support.

Discussion of the existing schedule of valuations for purposes of taxation developed a sentiment that in many instances lands were being taxed excessively. A motion was adopted providing for the appointment of a committee of representative ranchers to study the whole subject of taxation and submit suggestions for legislation to the next session of the legislature.

A resolution was passed reaffirming the previous stand of the association in favor of a comprehensive survey of the problem of national forests and the public domain by an impartial fact-finding commission, pending the report of which the proposed commercial exploitation of such lands would be held in abeyance. It was recommended that the co-operative campaign being waged by the federal and state governments against predatory animals be continued. The work of the governor and various state boards in connection with the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease last summer was commended. A tariff on hides and non-edible fats was strongly urged.

George Russell, Jr., of Elko, was re-elected president, and Vernon Metcalf, of Reno, secretary.

MEAT PRODUCERS MEET

ON DECEMBER 10 and 11 the Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association met in annual convention at Des Moines. The first day's session, held jointly with the Iowa Co-operative Live Stock Shippers, was devoted to a discussion of marketing problems. At the banquet in the evening the memory of Henry C. Wallace, for many years secretary of the Meat Producers, was honored by appropriate services. Resolutions adopted—

Urged upon Congress favorable consideration of principle of providing suitable government export corporation for agricultural products;

Favored Smith resolution, authorizing Interstate Commerce Commission to make preferential rates on agricultural products;

Requested that agricultural Middle West be given representation on Interstate Commerce Commission;

Recommended such necessary amendments to Packers and Stock-Yards Act as will effectively protect live-stock producers; Considered present valuation of \$18,900,000,000 on railroad properties too high, and suggested its reduction by Interstate Commerce Commission;

Demanded investigation of tax conditions as they affect farmers;

Commended Producers' Live Stock Commission Companies; Appreciated efforts made to improve agricultural credit mechanism.

A. Sykes, of Ida Grove, was re-elected president; R. M. Gunn, of Buckingham, vice-president; and Charles Goodenow,

of Wall Lake, treasurer. H. A. Wallace, of Des Moines, was made recording secretary. A field secretary will be chosen later.

RATES ON PURE-BRED LIVE STOCK

IN LAST MONTH'S "PRODUCER" we mentioned the reduction in rates on the transportation of certain classes of pure-bred live stock granted by carriers. On November 26, 1924, the following joint notice was issued:

"In accordance with Western Trunk Line Rate Advice No. 4676, one-half of the regular tariff rates, subject to a minimum charge of \$7 per shipment, has been established on live stock, registered, less carloads, between points within the State of Nebraska. It is the desire and intention of our lines to establish this same basis—confining it to horses, pure-blooded, registered, except race-horses, and *cattle for breeding purposes only*, less carloads—between points in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming, interstate or intrastate, when moving between points on the lines represented by the undersigned, or as additional lines may become parties to the arrangement.

"The basis referred to . . . shall be applied only when certificate of registration for each animal is furnished by the shipper, which is to be attached by the forwarding agent to the way-bills, and to be turned over to the consignee at the time the shipment is delivered and freight charges paid.

"This basis is to expire December 31, 1925."

The notice is signed by the executive traffic officers of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, and the Chicago & North Western Railways. These roads are all members of the Western Trunk Line and the Illinois Freight Association. The matter has been redocketed in the Southwestern Freight Bureau, and it is hoped that no further objection will be raised there,

so that the reduction may be made applicable throughout the western territory.

In explanation of the expiration date, it is stated by F. S. Brooks, general live-stock agent of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, that it was "established only for the purpose of keeping it prominently before everybody. If necessity requires, it can be very easily extended from time to time."

WOOL-RATE CASE REOPENED

UPON PETITION by the Boston Wool Trade Association, the Interstate Commerce Commission has reopened the case involving the establishment of through routes and reasonable joint rates in the transportation of wool and mohair through Pacific ports and the Panama Canal to north Atlantic ports. It is announced that further hearings will be held on January 15 at Chicago.

THE CALENDAR

January 14-16, 1925—Twenty-eighth Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Association, Albuquerque, N. M.

January 17-24, 1925—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.

January 21-23, 1925—Annual Convention of National Wool Growers' Association, San Francisco, Cal.

February 26-27, 1925—Annual Convention of Kansas Live Stock Association, Wichita, Kan.

March 31-April 4, 1925—Inter-Mountain Live Stock Show, Salt Lake City, Utah.

"I have never yet seen a copy of THE PRODUCER that was not well worth reading, and I am looking forward to your next issue with keen interest."—L. F. KNEIPP, Executive Secretary, National Conference on Outdoor Recreation.

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Headquarters of American National Live Stock Association during Convention

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THE PRODUCER

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THE ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION

The Twenty-eighth Annual Convention of the American National Live Stock Association will be held at the Elks' Club, Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 14, 15, and 16, 1925; opening session at 10 A. M. on Wednesday, January 14. All stockmen are cordially invited to attend. There will be interesting addresses by men prominent in the live-stock world. Vital questions affecting the live-stock industry will be up for full discussion. Albuquerque people cordially welcome you.

INCLOSURES ON PUBLIC LAND

OVER LARGE AREAS of the Southwest it has long been customary for stockmen to erect inclosures and drift-fences on the public domain used by them for grazing. This, of course, was done without warrant of law. From time to time the matter has been under consideration at Washington, but nothing definite was done until November, 1923, when orders were issued by the General Land Office calling for the removal of all unlawful obstructions.

Such, however, was the condition of the live-stock industry of the Southwest at that period, and so urgent were the appeals of those affected, that a stay of execution was granted until November 10, 1924, which was later extended to December 31, "in order that the interests so heavily involved may have the opportunity for working themselves out of a deplorable dilemma." It was hoped that meanwhile Senate Bill No. 2325, prepared by the Department of the In-

terior and providing for the leasing of the public grazing land, would intervene to help relieve the situation. The bill has not been passed, and the order consequently stands.

It is important that the enforcement of this harsh ruling be postponed. Under conditions as they exist today in most sections of the Southwest, insistence on the immediate removal of all drift and other fences would be a calamity that would work serious injury to the industry as a whole, and to many a small man would spell utter ruin. Foreclosures would follow in swift succession; and, with all fences down, there would be no way even of counting the herds—either for the nominal owner or for the bank which holds his paper. It would, indeed, look as if his own government were conspiring with the forces of nature and economic depression for the stockman's complete undoing.

Steps are being taken to secure relief from this order. But vigorous action is necessary. Let each individual, each bank and loan company, at once send a protest to their representatives in Congress, to the commissioner of the General Land Office, and to the managing director of War Finance Corporation, trying at least to secure a delay until spring, when grazing conditions may be better and a measure of financial improvement may be in sight.

This matter will receive attention at the convention of the American National Live Stock Association in Albuquerque.

(Since the above was written, announcement has been made from Washington that, by order of President Coolidge, the time limit for the removal of these fences has been extended until January 1, 1926.)

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

PLANS FOR MINIMIZING the danger of future outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease among the live stock of the United States are being laid by the Department of Agriculture. These include research work abroad. Owing to the extreme difficulty encountered in preventing the escape of the bacteria of this elusive affection, it has not been considered safe to conduct the experiments on American soil. The proposal is to appoint a committee of three scientists, one of whom would represent the Bureau of Animal Industry, to pursue the study in a foreign country where foot-and-mouth disease is a permanent and tolerated lodger—preferably in collaboration with native investigators.

A few years ago, it will be remembered, the British government conceived the idea of interning a group of scientists on board a vessel, which then put out to sea with its cargo of animals, infected or to be infected, for the purpose of making a thorough study of the disease under conditions of complete isolation.

So far as we know, nothing ever came of it; and meanwhile new outbreaks have occurred weekly in a number of English counties. For years French savants have been busily at work hunting for remedies or preventives, from time to time giving out hopeful announcements of new discoveries; throughout France, however, infection remains rampant. In other European countries incessant experimentations are being carried on—so far with indifferent success. South America, on the other hand, long ago settled down to a policy of mild acquiescence. There the disease, while ever present, takes a much less virulent form and is generally allowed to run its course, with no worse consequences than a temporary loss of flesh or diminution of the milk flow. Presumably it is here that the American committee will pitch its tent.

North of the Equator no safer method of combating the plague has yet been found than the unscientific and wasteful slaughter of infected and exposed herds. In extensive outbreaks losses from this cause run into very large figures. Last year, in California and Texas combined, 117,697 animals were destroyed, appraised at \$4,578,162. Property loss at the same time amounted to \$73,094. In the outbreak of 1914, 172,222 animals were slaughtered, with an appraised valuation of \$5,865,720. By common attack, it seems that it ought to be possible for the veterinary science of the world in time to evolve a cure, or at any rate an immunizing serum, for this baffling and costly disease.

HIDE PRICES

RISING HIDE PRICES are an encouraging feature of the present market situation. The advance has been quite steady, and promises to continue. Imports for the first nine months of 1924 were little more than one-half of those for the same period of the previous year. Increased industrial activity in Europe has caused several governments there to prohibit the exportation of hides. An actual shortage of the heavier qualities is said to exist in this country. At their recent conference in Cincinnati, tanners decided to reduce overhead expenses by "scrapping" a number of small plants and instituting other reforms. As a result of all these factors, reflecting an improved economic situation, packers' take-off has been in active demand and, for the first time in several years, is pretty well cleaned up.

How far the live-stock man has been made to share in the resultant advance we cannot say. Are the packers certain of having accorded him his just proportion of the benefit accruing from these higher prices on one of his products?

Agitation for a tariff on hides should not, by these conditions, be allowed to lag. The improvement should be accelerated and made permanent. South

America and Australia, our keenest competitors, are still sending us shiploads of cheap hides. A duty should be imposed sufficient to make our tanners see their advantage in using the domestic article in preference to the foreigner's. We look to the Agricultural Conference to include in its program an adequate import duty on hides.

Only yesterday the absurd situation prevailed that a cattle-raiser received less for his hide than he paid for his shoes. Even yet he gets less than he did before the war. Shoes, on the other hand, have increased 97 per cent in price, and wages in the shoe industry are 114 per cent higher. The following table we quote from the monthly review of the National City Bank of New York for December, the figures being reduced to index numbers, with 1914 prices used as the base at 100:

Year	Price of Calfskin	Price of Calf Leather	Wages	Price of Calfskin Shoes
1914.....	100	100	100	100
1916.....	161	161	108	117
1918.....	177	214	146	178
1920.....	175	352	231	283
1922.....	76	158	206	206
1924.....	98	164	214	197

Here is still plenty of room for reform in various directions.

THAT KAIBAB ROUND-UP

FAILURE marked the attempt to drive the Kaibab deer across the Grand Canon of the Colorado River. George McCormick—the veteran cattleman who conceived the plan—has gone home; his army of cowboys and Indians has disbanded; the moving-picture men, on the spot to film the unusual spectacle, have packed up their paraphernalia. The deer, as we expected, proved unsusceptible to civilized methods, simply refused to be herded, and scattered in all directions before the blinding blizzard that intervened to aggravate the difficulties.

Crating individuals and shipping them out is too slow and costly a procedure to promise much relief. Besides, the Forest Service tells us that the deer will not thrive east of the ninety-fifth meridian. As we see it, the only recourse is to let in hunters, under strict government supervision. However regrettable the necessity of killing any of this splendid herd, it is better to shoot a certain number than have them die of starvation.

Quantities of the different kinds of meat consumed in the United States and Canada in 1923 compared as follows: beef and veal—United States, 70.4 pounds, Canada, 70 pounds; pork—91.4 and 81; mutton and lamb—5.2 and 8.5; total—167 pounds for the United States and 159.5 pounds for Canada.

"I consider THE PRODUCER well worth the money and do not want to miss a copy."—W. G. KELSEY, Tinnie, N. M.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

AGRICULTURE AT WASHINGTON

RECOMMENDATIONS of the fact-finding commission appointed in October, 1923, to make a thorough study of the whole reclamation and irrigation problem are embodied in the Smith-Gooding rider to the deficiency appropriation bill passed by the Senate early in December. The measure was adopted by the House at the last session of Congress, and now becomes law. It provides, among other things, for charging off more than \$18,000,000, owed the government by reclamation farmers, which, in the opinion of the commission, can never be recovered, and of about \$9,000,000 more which is characterized as a "probable loss;" thus practically giving water-users a fresh financial start.

The measure would readjust water charges, basing them in future on the average estimated value of the gross crop production per acre for the preceding ten years, and prescribing repayment of construction costs at the rate of 5 per cent of such value. Provision is also made for deferring payments for three years, where deemed advisable. Legal penalties are reduced 50 per cent, and overhead expenses are in future not to be charged against the projects.

* * *

The "Long- and Short-Haul Bill," introduced by Senator Gooding, of Idaho, at the last session and passed by the Senate, is now before the House. It would "safeguard shipping through the Panama Canal, and at the same time relieve the intermountain country of the continual threat of freight-rate discrimination by western railroads."

* * *

It is announced by Robert D. Carey, chairman of the President's Agricultural Conference, that that body will welcome suggestions from organizations and individuals regarding measures for the betterment of agricultural and live-stock conditions. Recommendations should be filed in writing with Frank H. Sterling, secretary of the conference, Washington, D. C.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE ON FARM RELIEF

RELIANCE on the natural working-out of economic law, rather than an attempt to insure prosperity by legislative fiat, is President Coolidge's formula for restoring agriculture to a prosperous condition, as enunciated in his message at the opening of Congress. Mostly by his own effort, says the President, the farmer has already decreased the cost of production. A marked advance in the price of his products, and some decrease in the price of his supplies, have brought him nearer to a parity with the rest of the nation. "Everyone knows that the great need of the farmer is markets," Mr. Coolidge tells us. "The country is not suffering on the side of production. Almost the entire difficulty is on the side of distribution." He pledges continuation of the government's efforts to help put agriculture

permanently on a sound and equitable footing, and to maintain its normal relationship with other industries, and expresses the hope that the Agricultural Conference may report legislative remedies in time for action at the present session.

On the matter of transportation, Mr. Coolidge believes that consolidation of railroad lines offers the best solution of present difficulties. He recommends that the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission be broadened to permit it to receive voluntary proposals for mergers, with provision for pressure being brought to bear on reluctant carriers after a fixed period. Consolidation, in the President's opinion, would also "tend to equalize earnings in such fashion as to reduce the importance of section 15-a, at which criticism, often misapplied, has been directed." The valuation work begun by the commission ten years ago should not be supplanted until its results are known and can be considered.

* * *

Speaking in Chicago on December 4, on the occasion of his visit to the International Live Stock Exposition, the President again emphasized his conviction that the farmer's present troubles are largely caused by overproduction. Experience tells us, he contended, that government subsidies or price-fixing would only aggravate this evil. "The sound remedy is to reduce production; and that is a remedy which automatically will apply itself, if there is not artificial interference." The government can and will assist. In the matter of the tariff, for instance, "we have built agriculture squarely into the structure of our protective system. The farmer receives the maximum benefit possible from tariff duties on competing farm products. Whatever may be the trouble with the farmer, it does not come from the application of the tariff to his business." Nor can the government be justly accused of neglect in coming to the farmer's rescue with direct financial aid, since during the past three years more than \$500,000,000 has been placed at the service of agriculture through the War Finance Corporation.

"Looking to the future," the President went on, "the government must aid generously in developing a national agricultural policy on broadly constructive lines. It will support any sound program to release the farmer from the individualistic competitive conditions under which agriculture has been conducted. It must encourage orderly and centralized marketing, as a substitute for the haphazard and wasteful distribution methods of the past. We must help the farmer reduce his taxes, broaden his foreign market, and keep freight rates as low as possible while keeping the railroads efficient. . . .

"From the forum which is provided for this splendid exposition of the live-stock branch of agriculture, I make my pledge and my appeal to the farmers of the nation. My pledge is that your government will do everything possible and proper for a government to do, to encourage and direct your strivings toward the goal of prosperity, stability, and security. My appeal is that farmers everywhere shall find ways in which to organize and associate themselves together in the determination to employ effectively every means of improvement that has been placed at their disposal."

REPORT OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

SECRETARY WALLACE at his death had almost completed his annual report, which is now transmitted by Mr. Gore. Agriculture, we are told, is today in a better position than at any other time since 1920. Prices of many crops are at the highest level in four years, while costs of production have declined. This year's harvest, though not the greatest, has been the best balanced in this period. Income from agricultural products for the crop year 1924-25 may reach \$12,000,000,000, against \$11,500,000,000 in 1923-24.

This improvement, says the report, while it brings agricultural prosperity nearer, has not yet lasted long enough to produce any marked betterment in the farmer's financial position, and is not shared equally by all elements of the farming population. Wheat-growers are reaping the greatest share. The corn crop has been unfavorable, but this is offset to some extent by higher prices. As a whole, the Corn Belt must look for increased returns through a better hog market.

Returns on the value of the total farm capital from an estimated gross income of \$12,000,000,000, with operating costs remaining the same as during the previous year, would be only 3.8 per cent, which is much below the average on capital invested in other industries. In 1920-21, after deducting operating costs and a wage allowance for the farmer's labor, and before paying interest on debts, net income on current values of agricultural capital was but 0.6 per cent. In the following year it increased to 1.4 per cent, and made a further gain to 3.1 per cent in 1922-23. This percentage was maintained in 1923-24. These returns, however, are made on a scaled-down capital valuation, and the gain consequently is not quite so great as appears.

Regarding the co-operative movement, Mr. Wallace holds that progress has been somewhat retarded in recent years through the influence of overenthusiastic persons who have professed to see in it a panacea for all agricultural ills. Mere organization of a co-operative association is not enough. Success depends on finding capable managers, on the loyal support of the membership, and on getting a sufficient volume of business. Converts who urge that the government should father a particular co-operative association must remember that such action would amount to guaranteeing an enterprise without an authoritative voice in its direction. The relationship of the government to co-operation should be one of service. It should help farmers market their crops, just as it helps them produce their crops, not by doing their work, but by supplying information which they cannot get for themselves. To go farther would be to injure, rather than aid, the movement.

PACKERS AND STOCK-YARDS ADMINISTRATION

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to the Packers and Stock-Yards Act introduced at the last session of Congress reflected in a measure the experience and viewpoints of the administration and various groups in the live-stock industry, gained through observing the operation of the law since its passage, says Chester Morrill, assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, in charge of the Packers and Stock-Yards Administration, in his annual report. The suggested legislation is thus summarized:

1. Modification of the act with reference to operation of certain state laws.
2. Definition and alteration of existing rights and liabilities of co-operative market agencies operating at public stock-yards.
3. Prohibition of direct buying by packers at private yards at places where there are public markets.

4. Greater authority by administration over employment of weighers and dockers.
5. Simplification of "cease and desist" procedure.
6. Requiring of bonds from persons doing business as market agencies or as dealers at public yards.
7. Suspension of privilege of doing business as to agencies found insolvent or guilty of violations of law.

A bill sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, and covering principally the lines indicated in paragraphs numbered 5, 6, and 7 above, was introduced in the House by Representative Haugen, of Iowa, but did not come to a vote. A provision was, however, inserted in the appropriation bill which passed Congress, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to require "reasonable bonds" from market agencies and dealers.

Of the accomplishments of the Packers and Stock-Yards Administration, the following are noted as the most important:

- Reduction of commission rates at western markets.
- Physical valuation of stock-yard properties.
- Bonding of live-stock commission companies.
- Establishment of shippers' proceeds accounts.
- Opening the way for co-operative selling agencies in terminal markets.
- Supervision of feeds furnished in yards.
- Improvement of trading relations and market practices.
- Formulation of rules governing weighing operations.
- Increase of prices for dead animals.
- Assistance to shippers in securing just settlement of disputes.
- Securing of better train service for shippers.
- Speeding-up of unloading at terminal markets.
- Registration of all buyers and sellers of live stock.
- Auditing of accounts of stock-yard companies and commission firms.

Investigations and controversies in which the Packers and Stock-Yards Administration has been engaged are reviewed, among them the many cases arising out of the alleged discrimination against co-operative selling agencies, the commission-rate cases, the Armour-Morris merger, and the case giving the administration access to the packers' books. In all, 112 formal proceedings had been instituted up to the end of the fiscal year covered by the report, sixty-five of which had been disposed of.

On the matter of meat-retailing by packers the report, among other things, has this to say:

"The retailer performs functions that cannot be dispensed with. By reason of the composition, organization, and nature of the retail trade, it is relatively inefficient and adds the largest single charge to the price spread. As a result, improvement at this step in distribution may save more than at any other. Fear has been expressed that packers, especially the great ones, would dominate the food supply of the nation to such an extent as to constitute a menace, if they became engaged largely in retailing. The investigations of which this is merely a partial report have as one of their purposes a determination of the extent, if any, to which governmental supervision would be effective and should be applied if this further step in the integration of the industry takes place. It is a safe principle that no regulation should be applied unless really promotive of the industry and the public welfare. Investigations in 1923 in the United Kingdom disclosed one of the largest British international packers successfully conducting a chain of about 2,600 multiple shops. Preliminary investigations among a few of the smaller of our packers that operate retail chains, and among chain groceries that conduct meat departments, indicate that the next step in improved distribution of meat must come from packer retailing."

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER TO MEXICO

DR. S. O. FLADNESS, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, has gone to Mexico City, where he will act as agricultural commissioner for the United States. His duties will consist largely in conferring with Mexican authorities concerning live-stock diseases and quarantine measures, in an endeavor to secure uniformity in the regulations of the two countries. Dr. Fladness' headquarters will be at the American consulate.

FORESTER GREELEY SUBMITS HIS REPORT

AMONG THE MANY IMPORTANT SUBJECTS discussed in the Forester's annual report, the revised grazing regulations and the proposed new schedule of fees are of most direct interest to the western live-stock man. As the fee question is dealt with at length elsewhere in this number, we shall here only remind of the fact that whatever reductions have been made in fees will be applied in full from the opening of the 1925 season, but that no increases will be made effective until next year. If there by that time is a substantial improvement in live-stock conditions, it is the present plan of the Forest Service to put the new rates into effect on a graduated scale, extending over the four years from 1926 to 1929, inclusive. Meanwhile, however, there is a good chance that the whole problem may be thrashed out in Congress.

Beginning January 1, 1925, ten-year permits will be issued. At the close of the first five years there will be a new adjustment, when properly qualified new Class A applications will be approved.

We have previously published summaries of permits issued and numbers of stock grazed on national forests during the calendar year 1923. An interesting tabulation of live-stock losses on forest ranges over the same period we reproduce herewith:

LOSSES OF LIVE STOCK ON NATIONAL FORESTS, 1923

District	From Predatory Animals		From Poisonous Plants		Miscellaneous Causes*	
	Cattle and Horses	Sheep and Goats	Cattle and Horses	Sheep and Goats	Cattle and Horses	Sheep and Goats
No. 1.....	274	6,334	327	1,115	1,015	10,023
No. 2.....	212	1,110	1,623	1,710	1,422	1,534
No. 3.....	2,428	4,437	1,582	3,564	3,444	2,730
No. 4.....	179	9,433	1,466	3,303	711	11,130
No. 5.....	253	3,344	551	1,688	1,668	3,696
No. 6.....	125	8,264	113	2,773	237	5,499
No. 7.....	52	6	72
Totals.....	3,523	32,922	5,668	14,153	8,569	34,612

*Strays, bogging, diseases, lightning, flies, and like causes.

From this table it will be seen what a serious menace predatory animals still are in parts of the West—particularly in Arizona and New Mexico, which make up District No. 3. The figures do not include the heavy losses caused by drought conditions in these two states during the summer of 1923, when 9,385 cattle and horses, and 3,110 sheep and goats, fell victims to starvation.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924, 1,857 miles of road and 4,805 miles of trail were constructed or improved from forest road appropriations and other federal and co-operative funds, and 7,422 miles of road and 31,846 miles of trail were maintained. Total expenditure on the projects had been \$43,989,765—\$33,593,101 of federal funds and \$10,396,664 of co-operative funds.

For the calendar year 1923 statistics show the enormous total of 78,829 forest fires throughout the United States, exclusive of Alaska, burning over 21,672,114 acres and doing damage to an amount of \$27,733,187. Over half of these losses were in the southeastern group of states. More than 50 per cent of all fires were caused directly by human agencies.

Receipts from national forests for the last fiscal year were \$5,251,903, of which timber sales made up \$3,036,396, grazing \$1,915,561, and miscellaneous uses \$299,946. Expenditures were \$17,652,087, more than half of which, or \$9,351,143, was spent for road and trail construction. Administration of grazing cost \$641,517, or only about one-third of the income from that source.

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS EXTENDS ITS SERVICE

OUTLOOK REPORTS, enabling farmers and live-stock men to adjust production more closely to market demand, are considered by H. C. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the outstanding feature in the work of the bureau during the past year. By furnishing such a "barometer of the agricultural industry," says Dr. Taylor in his annual report, agriculturists have been helped to reduce losses and plan for better returns. Twice a year surveys are made of intentions of farmers to plant crops and of the number of hogs to be bred for market. These data, in connection with all available information on domestic and foreign requirements, supply the groundwork for the outlook reports, which attempt to anticipate trends in world production and market prices.

The market-reporting service of the bureau has been extended, improvements have been made in methods of estimating yields and live-stock numbers, the news service has been expanded by means of leased telegraph wires and radio, and great progress has been made in the formulation of market grades and standards.

EXTERMINATION OF NOXIOUS ANIMALS

DESTRUCTION OF PREDATORY ANIMALS and rodent pests is the branch of the activities of the Bureau of Biological Survey in which stockmen are most directly concerned. In his annual report, E. W. Nelson, chief of the bureau, reviews its work during the year ending June 30, 1924. We learn that skins or scalps of 38,591 predatory animals were taken. Of these, 34,092 were coyotes, 3,507 bobcats and lynxes, 562 wolves, 237 mountain lions, and 193 bears. In addition, it is estimated that about 100,000 coyotes were killed in poisoning campaigns. However, in spite of unceasing persecution, it seems that this sly and prolific enemy of society is gaining ground—at least steadily extending its ravages into new territory. Bears, being regarded as game animals, are killed only when known to be hunters of live stock.

The campaign against such rodents as prairie-dogs, ground-squirrels, pocket-gophers, jack-rabbits, cottontails, woodchucks, and the several species of rats and mice, is likewise being waged unremittingly, with the co-operation of local authorities, associations, and individuals.

SECRETARY OF INTERIOR WOULD ASSIST IRRIGATION FARMERS

A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE to draft a comprehensive reclamation code, together with legislation to meet the needs of a settled policy with regard to government projects, is proposed by Secretary Work in his annual report to the President. The legislative program would include provision for a reappraisal of crop values on irrigated lands as a basis for payment by settlers (already included in the rider attached to and passed with the deficiency appropriation bill), and a well-defined policy of co-operation between the federal government and the states with respect to irrigated areas and waste lands available for agriculture. A construction program which would recognize the economy of completing such projects as are necessary to realize the best investment of government funds, and control, wherever conditions may warrant, of existing works by the water-users themselves, are likewise among the recommendations. Dr. Work would formulate a definite mode of procedure for investigating the legal, engineering, economic, agricultural, and financial conditions surrounding future government reclamation projects.

THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

DROUGHT BROKEN IN CALIFORNIA

LONE PINE, CAL., December 6, 1924.

TO THE PRODUCER:

We, out here in California, had been thinking that the last four or five years, with the exception of 1922, were dry; but this year has been the worst we have had on the east side of the Sierra Nevadas since 1899. For the last five years our ranges have been overstocked, and our cattle have been getting smaller from lack of feed to make them grow. And we have been bringing in the best range bulls we could get, too, from as far east as the Middle West.

No one likes to say that he is losing cattle from starvation, but this has happened on the desert the last two years, when normally there is no better range.

If the coming season follows the example of 1900, after the two bad years of 1898 and 1899, we shall again have a normal season. From present indications, this may be the case. Last night it snowed to the foot of the big Sierras, on the east side—something it has not done for several years.

With reference to the matter of grazing fees on national forests, I wish to say that the sentiment here is in favor of fixing fees on a cost-of-administration basis. In case this cannot be done, I feel—and a good many others are of the same opinion—that we are overstocked, and that a reduction of at least 15 per cent should be made in the cattle herds on the forests. Our cattle now come off the range in poor condition, while a few years ago, when there was less stock, they were in better shape. We have had a number of dry years, for which no allowance has ever been made, so far as I know. I do not blame the officials of the Forest Service, as they seem anxious to help. Of course, I realize that this plan would work a hardship on those who were cut out; but, nevertheless, the sooner it is done, the better it will be in the end.

I do not believe that forest fees should be regulated by charges on private lands, for the reason that private lands, as a rule, are of limited area and in solid blocks, whereas public lands are scattered, and often located in out-of-the-way places, entailing an extra cost on the permittee. Besides, we are assessed for keeping up trails and drift-fences.

J. H. LUBKEN.

MONTANA HAS PLENTY OF GRASS

MELVILLE, MONT., December 16, 1924.

TO THE PRODUCER:

With an open winter so far, and lots of grass, cattle in our part of the state are in very good condition. Depletion of cattle—and of cattlemen themselves, for that matter—is apparent all over Montana. Few big herds remain intact; and the same may be said of the ranks of the cattlemen. There was a fair demand for calves this fall, but they seemed to be the only class of cattle that could be moved at anywhere near the cost of production.

W. H. DONALD.

LAMBS IN SPORTIVE GAMBOL

J. E. P.

KING MIDAS' TOUCH had nothing on the wealth-creating faculty of sheep- and lamb-feeders this season. Those whose judgment was questioned when they put in thin western lambs around \$12 have cleaned up in amazing fashion. Each day the fat-lamb market has worked to higher levels, advancing from a \$16 to a \$19 basis without a halt. Astounding stories of profit are related. In one instance a band of 1,200 Montana lambs was fed less than forty days on a western Illinois farm, that showed a net profit of \$4,200. Nothing like it was ever recorded previously. After the disaster of December, 1923, when fat lambs were a veritable drug, feeders were fearful of repetition this season. To evade such a possibility, they pushed the stuff into market early—a process facilitated by rapid and cheap gains during the fall in corn-fields—so that, by the early part of December, northern Illinois and the major part of Iowa had cashed western lambs. The East had few natives and no westerners ready, creating a condition of acute shortage, which was aggravated by a New York City embargo on western poultry, lamb being called on to meet the emergency. Eastern orders for fat lambs were filed at Chicago in such volume that outsiders took the market away from the coterie of packers, who were forced to take anything and everything, lambs that ordinarily find the feeder outlet at that season going direct to the shambles. The overweight-lamb problem disappeared as 95-pound stuff sold at the top of the market. One band of western lambs that had been run a few weeks in a Nebraska beet-field actually sold at \$18 per cwt. at the middle of December, and they were nothing but fleshy feeders. Yearlings, which under normal conditions are severely penalized, gained more than lambs, actually advancing \$3 per cwt. during the third week of December, when they sold up to \$17.50, the product going to consumers in the guise of lamb.

Audible prediction of \$20 lambs is heard, and it may happen; but there is a limit to everything. December and January last winter were disastrous months from the feeder's standpoint; consequently there should be a period of high prices on this occasion, as markets rarely repeat. That it will be a high lamb market all winter is a certainty, as available supply is limited and wool commands high prices. However, a lamb market flirting with \$20 per cwt. is not only dangerously high, but peculiarly sensitive to supply-and-demand conditions. From now on the bulk of supply will be in Nebraska and Colorado feed-lots, as Idaho took the direct route to market by selling off thin lambs last fall. In the Snake River area, where 150,000 lambs were fed last winter, a search warrant would not disclose more than a handful, and such extensive operators, formerly, as "Jim" Clinton and R. E. Bicknell, who had about 200,000 between them a year ago, are doing little or nothing. It is a healthy situation, viewed from any angle.

"You publish the best and most reliable stock journal in the West."—PAUL F. FOSS, publisher *The Gazette*, Buffalo Gap, S. D.

THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN DECEMBER

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., December 29, 1924.

CATTLE VALUES went skyward; also beef cost, which merely reasserted the time-honored proclivity of distributive trade to keep well in the van. Market sages, who for weeks had confidently predicted substantial advances in live cattle, finally made good, although the upturn was grievously deferred. Contrary to custom, the live-cattle market displayed a rigid spine during International week. A débacle ensued. Feeders, rendered confident by show-week events, loaded too heavily for the subsequent week, insuring the final bargain sale of the season. Heavy-cattle trade collapsed, necessitating placing a lot of big bullocks in storage at the week-end. At the opening of the following week the prospect was anything but encouraging. Cattle declined to such low levels that the bars to the British market were temporarily thrown down, more than a score of loads of big cattle being taken on Liverpool account at Chicago. The average weight of the export purchase was 1,381 pounds, but it included bullocks exceeding 1,500 pounds, prices ranging from \$7.25 to \$8.50. At that moment the clouds rolled by. Discrediting recent assertion that heavy beef had no place in distributive channels, buyers fell over one another twenty-four hours later, in a strenuous effort to secure steers weighing 1,300 to 1,700 pounds, which had been the under dogs of the market for several months. So urgent were their needs that haggling over prices was discontinued. The "dollar break" of the previous week was restored almost overnight, and within ten days most of the big cattle showed an appreciation of about \$2 per cwt., \$11.50 being paid for steers that would have been well sold at \$9.50 on the low spot. Simultaneously a somewhat spectacular trade in yearlings developed, at prices ranging from \$12 to \$15 per cwt. The great mass of merely warmed-up cattle responded somewhat feebly to the upturn in the better grades, but everything derived some benefit. The moment western grassers were out of the way, killers took more interest in light and medium-weight steers that had merely tasted corn, selling anywhere from \$7 to \$8.50 per cwt.

She-Stuff Shares in Advance

Finally the uplifting influence was detected in female cattle—a branch of the trade that had been demoralized since grass-cattle gathering began west of the Missouri River. For months killers had "sat in" at a bargain sale whereat beef cows were vended at anywhere from \$3.50 to \$5 per cwt., and grass heifers at \$4 to \$5.50. During Christmas week these types of cattle advanced 50 to 75 cents per cwt. Heifers worth \$8 or better on the rise were as keenly sought as yearlings. The bull market reluctantly advanced, and a \$10-per-head canner and cutter trade was revised upward. It was a transformation from top to bottom, infusing more or less confidence, although the country declined to relinquish what had become chronic skepticism. That the wild set of December markets was due in large measure to bad supply distribution is not open to dispute, as Chicago had 90,000 cattle the week following the International, when the slump occurred, followed by 60,000 the next week; such contraction being the logical sequence of the break. As long as the practice of loading in the country in

response to advances is kept up, this price eccentricity will continue.

Eastern Demand Responsible for Upturn

Buying energy from external sources, so far as the coterie of big packers was concerned, was responsible for the upturn. As values climbed, specifications of New York orders relaxed, until shippers were forced to buy warmed-up cattle selling around \$8.50 at the crest of the rise. The big packers must have had a generous accumulation of beef in western coolers and at eastern branch houses, as they trailed the advance reluctantly. It enabled them to work off an accumulation, acquired at the previous low price level, with substantial profit. The latter part of December developed scarcity, both of heavy bullocks and of decently finished yearlings, which will be in evidence for months to come. During the bargain sale, when plain heavy cattle sold down to \$8, and even lower, a few feeders mustered sufficient courage to take them back to the country for a turn on corn. Losses on the crop of big steers marketed during October, November, and early December will never be even approximated; it has been placed at anywhere from \$25 to \$50 per head.

Hogs Progressing in Harmony

Swine trade also worked into a more comfortable position during December, average cost advancing about \$1.50 per cwt. At the low spot late in November average cost at Chicago, exclusive of pigs, dropped to \$8.33; late in December it crossed the \$10 line, heavy butcher hogs approaching the \$11 mark. The formidable delegation of \$5 to \$6 pigs, when the market was glutted with underweights, from 150 pounds down, disappeared, pigs advancing to an \$8 to \$9.25 basis. As in the case of cattle, eastern killers were responsible for the advance, frequently taking a third of Chicago's receipts. On Monday of the second week of December Chicago handled 122,749 hogs, 334,278 arriving during that week, for which no precedent exists. Somewhat surprisingly, this mass was absorbed on an advancing market, for which there is also scant precedent. Every retail market in the country was engaged in vending pig pork, to the serious detriment of beef, which could not compete with the less expensive, if not more palatable, commodity. Weight was naturally deficient, as it was a run of immature stock. Average weight at Chicago dropped to 200 pounds, with corresponding low yields on dressing-sheets; but the product went into distributive channels promptly, affording consumers access to probably the last feast of cheap pork for some time to come.

Lambs in Sensational Spurt

Live-mutton market events have surprised everybody in the trade, upset every scrap of precedent, and discredited all prophecy. A year ago the December lamb market was as demoralized as it was pyrotechnic on this occasion. Fat lambs went from \$16 to \$19 per cwt. without a halt, even the previ-

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ously stagnant sheep market responding. As in other branches of the market, eastern demand was the responsible factor; but it was a short supply, eastern markets were bare, western stuff that went into corn-fields early was cashed in haste, in anticipation of a bad market around the holidays, and a rising wool trade capped the climax. In one week—the third of December—lambs advanced \$2.25 per cwt., yearlings \$3.25, and sheep \$1.50. Woolled lambs went to \$19.25, against \$13 a year ago; yearlings reached \$17.50, aged wethers \$11.50, and fat ewes \$10; the bulk of the fat lambs realizing \$18.50 to \$19 on the high spot, wethers \$10.75 to \$11.50, yearlings \$16 to \$17.50, and fat ewes \$7.50 to \$9.25.

Upward Move Transmitted to Calves

Incidental to the rise in lambs was a spectacular advance in veals, New York orders being filled at \$14 to \$15 per cwt. Both advances were influenced by the New York embargo on western poultry, necessitating substitution of lamb and veal, and verifying the adage that it is an ill wind that blows nobody good.

STOCKER TRADE SLUGGISH

J. E. P.

EXTREME TIMIDITY has marked stock-cattle buying operations for months past. Opportunity to pick up bovine bargains have been ignored—a fact that is scheduled for early realization. Even the December rise in fat-cattle prices was not reflected in stocker trade. An adverse corn situation has at all times repressed bullish sentiment, even when it was admitted that light cattle were dirt-cheap. At intervals traders deserted the market, having an accumulation that could not be moved. A sagacious element embraced the

opportunity to put cheap cattle into storage for grazing purposes next summer; and, with the entire Mississippi Valley full of rough feed, it is surprising that so few were endowed with this kind of foresight. For cheap, common cattle there has been scant demand, on the theory that cost of putting gains on such cattle would be prohibitive. Likewise beef-makers were definitely "off" fleshy feeders, owing to demoralization of the fat-cattle market. Instead of investing in fleshy steers, feeders jettisoned cattle that had merely got a decent start on corn, in somewhat reckless manner, throwing thousands of steers with a thin beef-covering into killers' hands long before the time intended when the stuff was laid in. Professional winter feeders of nondescript cattle—the \$3.50 to \$4.75 kinds—took their usual quota, but the in-and-outer was out. The first run of corn-fed cattle reached the market early, and feeders took the money home instead of replenishing feedlots, determined to possess themselves in patience until corn broke or fat cattle advanced. A few of the more courageous reversed this policy, and, as usual, are in a position to profit by what may be designated either sagacity or temerity.

Nevertheless, a lot of light cattle have passed through the markets into sections where roughage is abundant, and, while they cannot be definitely figured in the winter and spring beef supply, many will return to market at that period in decent flesh, if the fat-cattle market is equal to a good performance meanwhile. They were laid in cheap, are being carried along inexpensively, and will stand a feed-bill before long, even on dollar corn and concentrates at present prices, as all they will require to interest packers is a little tallow on their ribs. Assuming that Corn Belt "stores" are depleted in this manner, a spring buying rush, especially in the case of yearlings, is "one best bet." Farmer feeders may anathematize beef-making when the market is on the rocks, but once the operation shows a profit they forget what has happened, to the extent of plunging. To sum it all up, an interesting late winter and early spring stock-cattle situation is in the inception stage. It may enable certain western people, who refused to sacrifice last fall, or were in a position to adopt that policy, to get ample remuneration for their winter feed-bill.

An inexplicable phase of the fall stocker deal was Corn Belt refusal to invest in calves, notwithstanding a lofty price level for even fleshy yearlings, not to speak of the finished type. Calves are not roughage-eaters, and putting dollar corn into the "babies" appalled many feeders—even those who had pocketed a substantial profit on the 1924 crop of early-maturity beef. As western breeders refused to accept a cut of \$5 per head, compared with 1923 prices, calves that would have moved to the finishing ground east of the Missouri River at weaning time are still in growers' hands. If well wintered, it is possible, if not probable, that they will be in demand to throw on grass next spring. Some feeders are solving the winter calf-carrying problem by grinding alfalfa and other roughage, supplementing it with a ration of ground barley. No less an authority than "Jim" Brown—for many years head cattle-buyer for Armour, whose opinion is not without value—asserts that the community roughage grinder, high-powered, will soon be established in cattle-feeding areas. Lamb-feeders have already adopted that method to advantage, although criticizing its cost. With a dash of molasses, ground roughage is made highly palatable to young stock.

A higher stock-cattle market is inevitable. The recent, and even present, deplorable situation is likely to change between dawn and sundown. Corn Belt feeders have not kept out of the market for financial reasons, as country banks are full of money and have been bidding for good cattle paper; but the restraining influence was a runaway corn market, and apprehension that the day of parity between corn and fat cattle would be indefinitely deferred.

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THE KANSAS CITY MARKET

BY M. Y. GRIFFIN

[Bureau of Agricultural Economics]

KANSAS CITY, MO., December 26, 1924.

DECEMBER'S CATTLE MARKET was featured by a sharp downward fluctuation, which carried values on short-fed steers and long-fed heavy beefs to the lowest point of the year. Under the influence of light receipts on late days, another reaction took place, which brought prices back to a level about steady with the close of last month. A light supply of choice to prime yearlings suitable for Christmas beef met a broad demand at the highest values of the season. On closing days buyers displayed considerably more interest in beef steers scaling above 1,100 pounds, and were inclined to neglect half-fat yearlings. Prime yearlings scored the practical top of \$14, which is also highest price of the year. The bulk of the fed offerings turned within a spread of \$7 to \$9.50, with numerous loads of desirable heavy steers cashing at \$8.75 to \$9.50 at the month's low time.

She-stock suffered sharp price declines early in the month, but closing values are fully steady. The bulk of butcher cows and heifers are going at \$3.50 to \$6.50, while \$2.25 to \$3.25



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takes most of the canners and cutters. Bulls were limited in supply and advanced 25 cents. Calves are closing fully \$1 higher, with \$10 the practical top for veals. Heavy calves are meeting an especially broad demand.

A dull fat-cattle market and higher-priced corn proved to be depressing factors in the stocker and feeder trade. The percentage of feeders taken out weighing over 900 pounds was considerably reduced. Prices on stocker and feeder steers are 25 to 35 cents lower, with most sales ranging from \$5 to \$6.75. Choice stockers are bringing upward to \$7.35. Stock cows are closing steady, but stock heifers declined 15 to 25 cents.

Although the supply of stock calves was light, demand was narrow, and prices maintained a steady basis.

During the month of December prices on hogs have made a gradual advance, and closing levels are \$1.25 to \$1.50 higher than late in November. Receipts have been fairly liberal, but about the same as the corresponding month last year. Prices were at the low point on the opening day of the month, when best butchers sold at \$9, and the high spot was reached during the final week, when choice weighty offerings scored \$10.30. Although some unevenness has featured the trade throughout the period, there has been a stronger undertone prevailing, and values have made substantial gains.

Lamb prices advanced steadily throughout the month, without a setback of material consequence occurring up to the closing session of the holiday week. Values are on a basis around \$3.75 above the previous month's close, with practically \$2.25 of the gain scored the week ending December 27. Best fed arrivals reached \$18 on December 26, passing the previous high mark of the year, made early in May, when choice Colorado fed offerings sold up to \$17.25. Clippers moved late in the month on a basis around \$3 to \$3.50 per cwt. below woolled arrivals, and the wide price range is no doubt responsible for a material reduction in the arrivals out of the fleece. The limited supply of fat sheep available registered fully a \$1 price gain. Fat ewes topped at \$9.25, and occasional consignments of wethers went mostly at \$9 to \$9.60.

THE OMAHA MARKET

BY CHARLES BRUCE

[Bureau of Agricultural Economics]

OMAHA, NEB., December 27, 1924.

SHARP PRICE FLUCTUATIONS featured the market on fed steers and yearlings all through December. Heavy liquidation of short-fed steers proved burdensome, and prices declined sharply; but toward the end of the month light receipts were a stimulating factor, and the tone of the market improved. Earlier losses were more than regained, with closing values 50 to 75 cents higher than at the close of November. Early in the month long yearlings reached \$13.25, and weighty steers \$10.75 to \$11.25. The bulk of short-feds cashed at \$6.50 to \$9.

She-stock prices show somewhat less improvement, and gains for the month amount generally to 15 to 25 cents. Most of the butcher cows and heifers turned at \$3.25 to \$6.50, with

heifers in load lots upward to \$10, and a few head at \$11. Bulls advanced around 25 cents, and veals 75 cents to \$1.

Stocker and feeder demand proved erratic, and prices fluctuated sharply in consequence. For the month, however, prices show little change, light steers and yearlings evincing a degree of strength, while fleshy feeders rule weak. The bulk for the month cleared at \$5.50 to \$6.75, with a moderate movement at \$7 to \$7.40. Thin cows and heifers were in light supply, and, with demand narrow, prices held mostly steady. The bulk cleared at \$2.75 to \$4.

In the face of record receipts of hogs for the past month—approximately 400,000 head—the demand from all sources proved unusually urgent, and the trend to values was sharply higher. Closing prices for December reflect a \$1 to \$1.25 advance, as compared with the end of November, with light offerings favored. Good and choice 200- to 250-pound butchers are clearing at \$10 to \$10.25, with the price limit for weighty butchers at \$10.30. Packing sows are going largely at \$9.60 to \$9.75.

Apart from the war period, trade has not witnessed such sharp advances as have occurred in lambs during December. Moderate receipts, coupled with such bullish influences as a higher dressed-lamb trade and advancing prices for wool, tended to key up competition here and elsewhere. Change in the front figure was frequent, and, comparing closing November prices with those at the close of December, woolled lambs show a net upturn of \$4 to \$4.50, fed clippers of \$2.75 to \$3, sheep of 25 to 50 cents, and feeding lambs of \$2.75 to \$3. Toward the end of the month the \$18 lamb made its first appearance for the year, while late November saw the top at \$13.85. Fed clipped lambs cleared upward to \$14.75, fat ewes upward to \$9.25, and feeding lambs mostly \$15.25 to \$15.75.

THE DENVER MARKET

BY W. N. FULTON

DENVER, COLO., December 29, 1924.

THE DENVER LIVE-STOCK MARKET closes the year 1924 with increases in receipts of all classes as compared with the year preceding. Cattle receipts total approximately 630,000 head, compared with 619,882 in 1923; hog receipts total 565,500 head, compared with but 495,292 head the year before; and sheep receipts are 2,035,000, as against 1,856,578 for the year 1923.

December trade showed some improvement in cattle and hogs, and a big advance in sheep prices. The advance in the cattle market was comparatively slight, and the improvement recorded is largely on the better grades of fat stock, indicating packers' preference for this class. Because of this fact, further advances are expected as quality improves.

Good beef steers sold one month ago at \$7.50 to \$8.50. The same grades are quoted at about the same prices at the close of December. Comparatively few good fat steers are coming to market, however, as feeders put their stock in late in this territory this season, and very little stock is ready for marketing. Cows that sold early in the month at \$4 to \$5 are now bringing \$4.25 to \$5.25, and choice fat heifers, back from feed-lots, are now selling up to \$6.75, whereas most of the range heifers coming to market a month ago were selling at \$5 to \$5.50. Good feeding and stocker steers are quoted at \$6 to \$7.25, as compared with \$5.50 to \$7 a month ago.

Hog prices are steadily on the up-grade. The supply is not so heavy now as it was thirty days ago, and a noticeable improvement in prices is the result. Top hogs were selling around \$9 early in December. One month later they were taken readily at \$10.75. Traders predict that the end is not

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yet. The supply of hogs in the country is known to be light, and, with strong demand prevailing for pork and pork products, it is the opinion of those in close touch with the market that further advances may be expected.

Sheep trade was active throughout the month, and spectacular advances in prices were made during the last two weeks. Choice fat lambs were selling at \$13 to \$13.50 early in December. At the close of the month they were finding outlet at \$17.25 to \$17.50, and the strong demand prevailing leads traders to predict that they will go still higher. Feeder lambs were selling one month ago at \$13.75 to \$14.25, while today the best grades are quotable up to \$16. Ewes have advanced a half dollar to 75 cents during the month, good kinds now bringing \$8.50 to \$8.75.

THE PORTLAND MARKET

[Bureau of Agricultural Economics]

NORTH PORTLAND, ORE., December 24, 1924.

ALTHOUGH cattle arrived at North Portland during December in slightly increased numbers, as compared with the previous month, demand has kept pace with the supply, and prices are fully steady on all classes, with spots showing 25 cents' gain in some of the in-between grades. Calves are around 50 cents above November's closing schedules. The big bulk of the steers have been the commons and mediums, ranging from \$5 to \$7, but a limited number of better-grade offerings have sold at \$7.75 to \$8.25. Common and medium she-stuff has cashed mostly at \$3.25 to \$5, with a fair showing of better-quality cows at \$5.50 to \$5.75, and \$6 to \$6.25 has been claimed occasionally by strictly good heifers. Cannermen and cutters stuck to their old range of \$1.50 to \$3, with only a few, bordering on butcher grade, up to \$3.25. Bologna bulls sold mostly in the narrow spread of \$3 to \$3.25, with butchers from \$3.50 to \$4. Milk-fat veal calves generally have found ready outlet at \$8 to \$8.50, and even \$9 has been touched in a few instances; but the big bulk of the offerings were the heavies and common lights from \$3.50 to \$7.

Country buyers were a little more active toward the close of the month, and the thin-fleshed steers to that outlet, which were bringing \$4.50 to \$5.50 last month, have gone mostly at \$5 to \$5.75, and \$6 has not been rare.

There was an appreciable increase in the hog supply during December. Trade has been lively, however, throughout the month, and prices are from 35 to 50 cents higher than a month ago. Desirable 160- to 200-pound butchers are cashing generally at \$9.65 to \$9.75, and \$9.85 is paid occasionally. Heavies and underweights are nearly all stopping at \$9.50 or under, and heavy packers and throw-outs are ranging from \$6 to \$8, with the big majority at \$7 to \$7.50. A spread of \$8 to \$8.50 is taking most of the slaughter pigs, though \$9 is paid occasionally for choice offerings. Feeder pigs have had their troubles throughout the month. The bulk of the supply has had to go at \$6 to \$6.50, and it took considerable peddling to find buyers at the latter figure.

Sheep and lamb receipts have been about the same as during November, not enough arriving at any time to give values a real test. The big bulk of the supply either were consigned direct to local killers or were bought to arrive at off-car weights. However, the sharp advances scored in the Corn Belt recently were felt here toward the close of December, and quotations, as a result, are from \$1 to as much as \$2.50 above November's close. Fairly good handy-weight woolled lambs have sold as high as \$14.50, and most sellers are of the opinion that strictly good handy-weight woolled yearlings, if offered, should bring \$12, wethers \$10, and ewes \$8.50.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY of storage holdings of frozen and cured meats on December 1, 1924, as compared with December 1, 1923, and average holdings on December 1 for the last five years (in pounds):

Commodity	Dec. 1, 1924	Dec. 1, 1923	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef.....	76,765,000	71,024,000	104,054,000
*Cured beef.....	23,571,000	22,142,000	23,977,000
Lamb and mutton.....	3,432,000	2,014,000	15,856,000
Frozen pork.....	48,656,000	82,068,000	51,645,000
*Dry salt pork.....	78,572,000	110,824,000	129,439,000
*Pickled pork.....	300,264,000	384,604,000	277,564,000
Miscellaneous.....	67,176,000	66,817,000	64,277,000
Totals.....	598,436,000	739,493,000	666,812,000
Lard.....	35,042,000	35,327,000	39,131,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

WOOL CLIMB HAS BREATHING SPELL

J. E. P.

CURRENT WOOL LITERATURE is voluminous and somewhat contradictory. The strong party in the trade is definitely committed to higher prices; a lusty majority takes the opposite view. A test period is undoubtedly ahead. One element insists that present and prospective wool supplies are ample; the other, that the trade has gone on a hand-to-mouth basis, assuring higher price levels. At the end of the year the market ran into a quiet zone, both here and abroad. After inventory-taking, activity is likely to be resumed. Certainly a lot of cheap wool was put under contract in the West early in

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the season, a large proportion of the 1925 clip having changed hands, especially in Montana and Wyoming, and it is probable that such wools will show an even more substantial profit at shearing time. Indicative of the advance in values is the sale at Chicago in mid-December of the Van Deusen clip, from Emmet, Idaho, at 50 cents per pound. When it reached the warehouse early last summer, 30 cents was the best bid available, and up to the time of sale 40 cents had been the limit.

Whatever the future may have in store, wool is tightly held at the moment, despite insistence by manufacturers that their stocks are ample for immediate needs. That the present stock of domestic wool is meager admits of no dispute, and the trade is confident of an active market during January and February, or as soon as inventory-taking is over. France, Italy, and Germany have been active in foreign markets, so that there is little probability of price recessions on domestic wool. In fact, holders are confident of getting more money.

Comparisons with midsummer prices are interesting. On a fleece basis, quarter-bloods have appreciated 60 per cent, three-eighths 50 per cent, and half-bloods 40 per cent. Mills have not only been paying this advance, but would buy more freely if prices were shaded. Trade journals are replete with technical descriptions of trade conditions, the gist of it all being that there is an undoubted shortage of wool, especially when measured by pre-war plenitude; that every civilized country is actively competing in foreign markets; and that current values are not only legitimate, based on present and prospective supply and demand, but that still higher values are probable, unless something unforeseen happens. Inflation is improbable, as the trade is still smarting from the effects of the 1920 débacle; bankers are cautious, and there is no disposition to indulge in rampant speculation. Intrinsically it is undoubtedly the strongest and most secure position that wool trade has ever worked into.

Some ado has been made about idle spindles and looms; but this is attributable to the fact that the industry is long on machinery, due to war-period expansion. More machinery is employed than some months ago, when wool, in the light of what has happened meanwhile, was on a bargain counter.

There is a recognized shortage of carpet wools, which have reached famine prices, creating concern regarding future supply, and stimulating effort to have South American wool adapted to this purpose admitted free of duty.

The advance in wool is facilitating the process of getting western sheepmen out of debt, and has been a boon to lamb-feeders. It has put a quietus on many promising pooling projects, as growers are, in a majority of cases, disposed to take the short route to cash.

After inventory-taking a test period will come. Most people in the trade expect further appreciation, since new-clip contracts have been made, as a rule, at prices substantially below the foreign market basis; and, if the latter holds, domestic prices can move only in one direction.

LIVE-STOCK MARKET QUOTATIONS

Friday, December 26, 1924

CATTLE AND CALVES

STEERS (1,100 lbs. up):	CHICAGO	KANSAS CITY	OMAHA
Choice and Prime.....	\$10.75-14.50	\$ 9.75-13.25	\$ 9.50-13.25
Good	9.75-13.75	8.85-11.40	8.85-11.75
Medium	7.75-11.40	8.40- 9.75	8.65- 9.85
Common	5.75- 7.75	4.25- 6.40	4.50- 6.65
STEERS (1,100 lbs. down):			
Choice and Prime.....	13.75-14.50	11.40-14.00	11.90-13.75
Good	11.50-13.75	10.15-11.40	10.00-12.25
Medium	7.50-11.50	6.25-10.15	6.65-10.00
Common	5.50- 7.50	4.25- 6.25	4.50- 6.65
Canners and Cutters.....	3.50- 5.50	3.00- 4.25	3.00- 4.50
LIGHT YEARLING STEERS AND HEIFERS:			
Good to Prime.....	9.50-13.50	9.15-12.25	9.25-12.50
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice.....	7.00-11.00	6.50-10.50	7.00-11.00
Common to Medium.....	4.25- 7.00	3.50- 6.50	4.00- 7.00
COWS:			
Good to Choice.....	4.75- 7.15	4.50- 6.50	4.50- 7.00
Common to Medium.....	3.40- 4.75	3.50- 4.50	3.65- 4.50
BULLS:			
Good to Choice.....	4.65- 6.25	4.00- 4.75	3.65- 5.00
CALVES:			
Medium to Choice (190 lbs. down)....	9.75-14.00	7.25-10.25	7.25-10.00
Culls to Common (190 lbs. down).....	6.00- 9.75	3.75- 7.25	3.75- 7.25
Medium to Choice (190 to 260 lbs.)....	6.00-13.50	5.50-10.00	4.75- 9.50
Medium to Choice (260 lbs. up).....	5.00- 9.00	4.00- 7.25	3.50- 7.25
FEEDERS AND STOCKERS—			
STEERS:			
Common to Choice (750 lbs. up)....	5.00- 7.25	4.50- 7.65	4.00- 7.50
Common to Choice (750 lbs. down)....	4.40- 7.25	4.00- 7.75	3.75- 7.50
Inferior (all weights).....	3.25- 4.40	3.00- 4.00	2.75- 3.75
COWS AND HEIFERS:			
Common to Choice.....	2.75- 4.75	2.50- 5.25	2.25- 4.50
CALVES:			
Common to Choice.....		3.50- 7.50	3.25- 6.75

HOGS

Top	\$10.80	\$10.25	\$10.20
Bulk of Sales.....	9.60-10.60	9.80-10.15	9.50-10.00
Heavy Weight, Medium to Choice.....	10.40-10.80	9.95-10.25	9.85-10.20
Medium Weight, Medium to Choice.....	9.75-10.75	9.90-10.25	9.65-10.20
Light Weight, Common to Choice.....	8.90-10.25	8.75-10.10	9.00- 9.95
Light Lights, Common to Choice.....	7.75- 9.75	7.75- 9.65	7.50- 9.65
Packing Hogs, Smooth.....	9.75-10.15	9.65- 9.80	9.60- 9.85
Packing Hogs, Rough.....	9.50- 9.75	9.35- 9.65	9.40- 9.60

SHEEP AND LAMBS

LAMBS:			
Medium to Prime.....	\$16.50-19.25	\$15.50-18.00	\$15.25-18.25
Culls and Common.....	13.25-16.50	11.50-15.50	13.00-15.25
YEARLING WETHERS:			
Medium to Prime.....	13.75-17.50	11.75-14.50	11.50-15.00
WETHERS:			
Medium to Prime.....	8.00-11.50	7.00-10.25	7.25-10.50
EWES:			
Common to Choice.....	6.25-10.00	5.75- 9.25	6.00- 9.25
Canners and Culls.....	2.75- 6.25	2.25- 5.75	2.25- 6.00
FEEDING LAMBS:			
Medium to Choice.....	14.00-16.50	13.50-16.25	13.50-15.75

FEEDSTUFFS

COTTONSEED CAKE AND MEAL, f. o. b. Texas points, has reached the high mark for this winter, selling on December 31 for \$40. The hay market remains practically unchanged, prices on December 29 at Kansas City being as follows: Prairie—No. 1, \$11.50 to \$12.50; No. 2, \$9.50 to \$10.50; No. 3, \$7.50 to \$9; alfalfa—select dairy, \$27 to \$28.50; choice, \$24.50 to \$26.50; No. 1, \$22.50 to \$24; standard, \$19.50 to \$22; No. 2, \$17 to \$19; No. 3, \$14 to \$16.50; timothy—No. 1, \$16 to \$17; standard, \$15 to \$15.50; No. 2, \$13.50 to \$14.50; No. 3, \$12 to \$13; clover-mixed—light, \$16 to \$16.50; No. 1, \$14.50 to \$15.50; No. 2, \$11.50 to \$14; clover—No. 1, \$16 to \$18; No. 2, \$12 to \$15.50; straw—\$9.50 to \$10.

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TRADE REVIEW

NOVEMBER'S FOREIGN TRADE

WHEAT AND COTTON swelled November's exports, which, next to those of October, were the heaviest since January, 1921. Excess of exports, with the same exception, were the largest recorded since February, 1921. The figures follow, those for November being preliminary:

	November		Eleven Months Ending November	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Exports.....	\$494,000,000	\$401,483,872	\$4,145,726,294	\$3,740,827,561
Imports.....	296,000,000	291,333,346	3,276,672,967	3,503,761,197
Excess of exports.	\$198,000,000	\$110,150,526	\$ 869,053,327	\$ 237,066,364

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS IN NOVEMBER

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS and animal fats for the month of November and the eleven months ending November, 1924, as compared with the corresponding periods of the previous calendar year, were as below (in pounds):

BEEF PRODUCTS

	November		Eleven Months Ending November	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Beef, fresh.....	213,166	245,181	2,347,527	3,141,988
Beef, pickled, etc.....	1,868,047	1,804,376	20,403,070	21,581,716
Oleo oil.....	9,267,543	6,714,393	93,408,976	93,078,213
Totals.....	11,348,756	8,763,950	116,159,573	117,801,917

PORK PRODUCTS

	November		Eleven Months Ending November	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Pork, fresh.....	2,846,998	7,945,969	27,491,844	45,942,792
Pork, pickled.....	1,553,371	2,764,514	26,702,584	39,115,818
Bacon.....	15,200,016	39,026,863	297,689,766	409,666,577
Hams and shoulders.	20,229,950	32,920,404	306,501,649	342,960,489
Lard.....	49,119,500	74,251,127	887,291,937	936,803,603
Neutral lard.....	2,440,729	1,769,292	24,737,915	21,994,971
Lard compounds.....	1,393,614	606,055	6,909,243	6,906,198
Margarine.....	54,940	80,889	722,317	1,717,904
Totals.....	92,839,118	159,365,113	1,558,047,255	1,805,108,352

ENGLISH LIVE-STOCK LETTER

BY JOSEPH RAYMOND

LONDON, December 16, 1924.

A FURTHER OUTBREAK of foot-and-mouth disease in Great Britain has been a serious enough visitation, but it has not interfered greatly with the general stock markets, in which supplies of late have been moderate. The Christmas fat-stock sales have produced quite an admirable array of finish and quality in the various centers, and for this there have been good competition and high prices, as usual. On the whole, fat-cattle prices have not been much on the upward grade, and at mid-December the average rates for first- and second-quality beasts are now \$3 and \$2.60, respectively, per 14-pound stone.

As regards sheep, general scarcity and increasing wool prices are reflected in an upward trend of rates, the average

price for first-quality Downs and cross-breds now being 34 cents per pound, or nearly 2 cents more than this time last year. Store-cattle trade is only medium in activity. Canadian cattle landings have averaged recently \$150 per head.

Scottish statistics show that the yearly average price for first-quality Aberdeen-Angus two-year-old cattle in 1923 was \$132.72 per head, or \$9.38 less than in 1922; for first-quality cross-bred two-year-olds, \$122.40—a drop of \$6.56. Both kinds were approximately 50 per cent dearer than in 1924.

A big battle has been waged in the British press during the past month over the subject of food prices, and in this discussion meat has occupied a leading place. The attack has been of the characteristically wild nature generally shown by the daily press. The general public, always unaware of the actual facts, has fastened upon this or that class of trader as a profiteer, ignorant of the unusual conditions that rule this year. For one thing, frozen-meat stocks have hardly ever been so short. Whereas a year ago there was a 500,000-carass carry-over from the old New Zealand meat season, this year the carry-over has been practically nil, as have also old-season stocks in the New Zealand stores themselves. This has resulted in a full maintenance during the off season of the very high wholesale prices of upwards of 26 cents per pound for lamb at the London Central Markets and elsewhere—a price at which the retailer is hardly able to show a profit in disposal to the consumer. Beef, too, has risen in value on the shorter marketings all around, so that frozen beef, which three months ago was languishing at prices that showed a decided loss to the grower in Australasia, is now priced wholesale in Smithfield at 10½ cents per pound for hinds and 9 cents for fores, by the quarter. Argentine chilled beef at mid-December sells at 14 cents per pound for hinds and 10¼ cents for fores, and may go higher before Christmas. It has been pointed out that up to a few weeks ago the meat-exporting companies of the River Plate were far from profiteering—actually making losses of as much, in the case of the biggest concerns, as close on \$10,000 a day, on account of the fact that cattle prices had risen nearly 100 per cent in the short space of rather less than six months. This period of unprofitable trading will undoubtedly force the trade to secure higher prices here, if at all possible; but it is to be noted that the consumption of mutton and lamb during the past two months has been very greatly diminished by the severity of rates, according to the evidence of wholesale distributors in different parts of the kingdom. The year 1925 is thought to give prospects of steadier prices than this year, with rates on a fairly high level, in view of the outlook of regulated shipments from several of the leading sources. After all, most depends upon the capacity of the consumer to pay for the goods, and, with this in view, not much apprehension is felt, as the trade outlook is a more promising one for Great Britain in general.

As an outcome of the public agitation on the question of dear food, the British government's appointment of a Royal Commission on Food Prices has been welcomed on both sides—by the consumer as affording some hope as to true information on the food-costs situation, and by the trading class as an opportunity of ending the controversy on profiteering. The commission will probably satisfy no one, but its necessarily slow progress will at any rate shelve a subject that produces more irritation than enlightenment.

The Corporation of the City of London has taken the opportunity of issuing henceforth a more complete table of wholesale meat prices on a daily basis through a special committee, and this list is publicly available. It has also sanctioned the appearance of what is known as a fair price list of retail values for meat—a schedule which does not accomplish much, inasmuch as it is an approximation only, and is beaten by most of the retailing trade.



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ROUND THE RANGE

CONDITION OF RANGE AND LIVE STOCK

Ranges showed some improvement dur-
ing November in most of the western
states, reports the Division of Crop and
Live-Stock Estimates. Rains consider-
ably bettered the situation in California
and broke the drought in Arizona. Rain
and snow caused some improvement over
the low condition of the previous month
in the entire northwestern section. A
further decline, however, was noted in
range conditions in Texas, and water was
drying up rapidly. Some sections were
beginning to feed, but feed is high and
scarce. Condition of ranges in all the
seventeen western states at the beginning

of December was reported as 77 per cent
of normal, compared with 75 per cent in
November and 92 per cent a year ago.
The mild fall weather had tended to con-
serve the feed supply in all the range
country. The supply of both rough feeds
and concentrates is generally plentiful
through the northern and eastern range
states.

Improvement in ranges had been too
recent to be reflected in the condition of
cattle. Further decline was reported in
Texas, and losses from starvation are
feared. In some parts of New Mexico
stock will have to be shipped to better
feeding sections. The condition of cattle
for all the range states averaged 85 per

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THE INTER-MOUNTAIN LIVE-STOCK MARKET

cent of normal, compared with 87 per cent during the previous month and 93 per cent in December, 1923. Marketing has been heavy for many sections, due largely to forced liquidation, although in the drought areas the shortage of feed has also tended to increase sales.

Sheep had maintained their condition of a month before and averaged 89 per cent of normal, compared with 89 in November and 97 a year ago. Rains and snows had improved the desert ranges of Nevada and Utah, and also all the Pacific coast states. Even in the drought areas of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona sheep had come through fairly well. The demand for all classes of sheep continues strong, especially for breeding ewes.

CATTLE AND SHEEP ON FEED

Only about 86 per cent as many cattle were on feed in the eleven Corn Belt states on December 1, 1924, as on the same date in 1923, according to an estimate by the Department of Agriculture. In the western and Pacific coast states the number was approximately 92 per cent of the figures for 1923. Reports indicate that a large proportion of these cattle are being used to salvage soft corn and will be given only a short feed, so that there will be a considerable falling-off in marketings late in the winter and during the spring months.

According to the same authority, there were less than 1 per cent, or about 40,000, fewer sheep and lambs on feed in the Corn Belt and in the feeding areas of the western and Pacific states on December 1, 1924, than on the same date in 1923. The numbers were 5,200,000 last year, as against 5,240,000 the year before.

INCREASE IN ALASKAN REINDEER

While only about ninety tons of reindeer meat were sent from Alaska to the States in 1923, indications are that there will soon be a rapid increase in the quantity shipped. In 1923 the entire number of reindeer in the territory totaled about 241,000. The increase each year runs from 33 to 45 per cent of the total number of animals in the herd. This percentage can be raised by a better understanding of herd management on the part of the Eskimos and other owners, and improved business methods in marketing the meat will result in a higher output. The Biological Survey conducts important investigational work in Alaska in the interest of the reindeer industry, including studies of diseases and parasites, feeding experiments to determine the nutritive values of different types of native forage, poison-plant problems,

herd management, and breed improvement.

Through the establishment of corrals, herd-owners are improving conditions in their herds. Co-operative handling and management has been practiced with good results. An additional impetus has been given to the industry by two American companies which are now operating refrigerating plants to receive reindeer carcasses for the purpose of shipping them to markets in the United States through Seattle. One of these companies operates refrigerating barges which move from one point to another, while the

other has several small cold-storage plants along the coast.

SEMI-ANNUAL PIG SURVEY

A decrease of about 30 per cent in the number of sows farrowing in the fall of 1924, compared with the number farrowed in the fall of 1923, in the Corn Belt states, is indicated by a preliminary tabulation of the results of the pig survey made as of December 1 by the Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the Post Office Department through the rural carriers. The number of pigs

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saved, however, is indicated as only around 24 per cent less than last fall.

The number of sows bred or to be bred for farrowing in the spring of 1925 in the Corn Belt is reported at about 10 per cent less than the number that actually farrowed in the spring of 1924. Based upon results of previous surveys, this would indicate a probable reduction of from 15 to 25 per cent in sows that will farrow next spring, compared with the spring of 1924.

The reduction of 24 per cent in the crop of fall pigs follows a reduction of over 17 per cent in the spring crop, shown by the survey of last June. The total pig production in the Corn Belt in 1924 was probably fully 19 per cent less than in 1923. Quantitatively, this represents a reduction from 1923 of between 11,000,000 and 12,000,000 head in total hog production.

THE PURSUIT OF THE SCRUB

A report on the progress and results of the "Better Sires—Better Stock" campaign conducted by the Department of Agriculture, recently issued, shows that 14,902 owners of live stock throughout the country, with more than half a million animals, have pledged themselves to use none but pure-bred sires in their operations.

The Parliament of the Irish Free State has under consideration a bill providing that only licensed bulls be used in the south of Ireland henceforth. The terms of the act may be extended to include rams and boars.

HOW TO KILL YOUR ASSOCIATION

For the following excellent diagnosis of one of the ailments that are sapping the life of many organizations—live-stock as well as others—we are indebted to the *Live Stock Journal*:

"Get offended if you are not appointed on a committee; but if you are, do not attend committee meetings.

"If you are asked by the chairman to give your opinion regarding some important matters, tell him you have nothing

to say. After the meeting, tell everyone how things ought to be done.

"Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary; but when other members roll up their sleeves and unselfishly use their ability to help matters along, howl that the organization is run by a clique.

"Don't bother about getting new members—let the secretary do it.

"Keep your eyes open for something wrong, and, when you find it, resign.

"At every opportunity threaten to resign, and then get your friends to.

"When you attend a meeting, vote to do something, and then go home and do the opposite."

Defined.—Teacher—"Johnny, what are the two genders?"

Johnny—"Masculine and feminine. The masculines are divided into temperate and intemperate, and the feminines into frigid and torrid."—*Answers* (London).

A Job to Suit.—Foreman—"Here, now, Murphy, what about carrying some more bricks?"

Murphy—"I ain't feeling well, guv'nor; I'm trembling all over."

Foreman—"Well, then, lend a hand with the sieve."—*Continent*.

Powerful Pie.—The Lady—"I gave you a piece of pie last week, and you've been sending your friends here ever since."

The Tramp—"You're mistaken, lady. Them was my enemies."—*Birmingham Weekly Post*.

The Crucial Point.—"Is there no hope for my husband—"

"Go on, madam!"

"Is there no hope? Doctor, is there no hope?"

"That depends, madam, on what you are hoping for," said the doctor, reaching for his hat.—*Richmond Times-Dispatch*.



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